Greetings Everyone!

I’m sending warm alohas from Hawaii on this Spring Equinox Solar Eclipse, Lunar Perigee DAY – We are also celebrating ASTROLOGY DAY this day at the extraordinary River of Stars Astrology Conference on the Big Island. A special ceremony is conducted for powerful blessings. (Pictures will be published in our next edition).

This day also marks the beginning of the end of the Uranus to Pluto square, and the incredible ride humanity has been through in the past 5 years, since this configuration gradually came into alignment. The world map, and the map of our own lives, has certainly been radically altered during this time, and I’m happy that on our side, OPA has grown and expanded considerably.

We celebrate Astrology Day in this issue, not solely because Astrology is dear to us, but importantly to shine its light and keep its flame burning against strong winds.

Scientists and religious institutions are relentlessly trying to discredit Astrology, but as someone wise said: “They buried us, but did not know we were seeds.” We celebrate to honor the gift of Astrology, and support its growth. Thank you for lighting your candle!

We have dedicated this issue to Mundane Astrology since so many political events are in process, from the early US elections, to the events in the Middle East and Europe! Mundane Astrology has been a prominent practice in ancient cultures, before the ‘personal horoscope’ movement. The wonderful diversity of articles about the different political world events provides a truly wide perspective on what occurs now around the world.

I’m also mentioning a wonderful update for OPA’s upcoming activities: we have an exciting collaborative project with Kepler College, where eight OPA presenters will be offering lectures on The Professional Practice of Astrology – From May 2 to June 20, 2015. See the announcement in this edition (page 27), and make sure you get the OPA discount.

Many blessings for this new festive season!

Gratitude for your support, always,
Maurice Fernandez
President, OPA
Israel Elections
March 17, 2015

by Maurice Fernandez

This article is being written in February 2015, before the process and results of the elections, but will be published by OPA right after the vote has taken place. Before proceeding with the analysis of the political background and election process, I would like to note that with public figures, it is very difficult to confirm accurate times of birth, none of which are confirmed in this article. Consequently, some of the charts are Solar Charts. This obviously affects the precision of our analysis.

BACKGROUND and ELECTION PROCEDURES

The Israeli elections were originally planned for the end of 2017, however, following a coalition crisis, the existing government fell apart, and on December 8, 2014, it was decided to hold new elections on March 17, 2015.

Israelis vote for a party that is led by a leader. The party that gets the most votes and is able to build a coalition with other parties to secure a majority in the parliament (Knesset), will have its leader run the country as the Prime Minister. This means that even if a party gets the most votes, it is not guaranteed to lead the country and can end up in the opposition if they don’t secure a coalition to have a majority in the parliament (Knesset) – this is precisely what happened in the 2009 elections, where technically, election candidate Tsipi Livni received the most votes, but 2nd in row, Benjamin Netanyahu, got greater support from other parties and built a stronger coalition to take over leadership of the Knesset and became Prime Minister of Israel.

This is one of the reasons why it is very complex to determine an actual winner for the Israeli elections astrologically, because even though the day of the elections can point to a particular winner, the following two weeks are crucial in determining who forms the best coalition. In 2009 I had written about Tsipi Livni’s victory, but did not anticipate she would fail to get a majority of seats in the parliament in the subsequent weeks.

CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION

I will not hide my personal political bias for the elections, but at the same time will remain neutral in my astrological analysis to determine what planetary cycles reflect for an outcome.

Israel is currently run by a right wing majority that is led by Likud party representative Benjamin Netanyahu. Since his election in 2009, Netanyahu has adopted an essentially nationalistic approach, providing the country on the one hand with a sense of national security in the backdrop of the effervescence of radical Islam in the Middle East (Syrian crisis and Islamic State emergence at the border of Israel), but he has systematically sabotaged any attempt for peace with Palestinians, and, on the contrary, aggressively pursued controversial expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied territory.

This approach has led to severe deterioration of Israel’s relationship with the United States, one of its few prominent allies in the world.

Netanyahu is also currently under scrutiny for having used public funds for personal privileges, and so beyond the scandals associated with failed relationship with Obama, he is now also made accountable for a $10,000 year spending bill on ice cream, and renovations of his private residence.

ASTROLOGICAL BACKDROP

The elections on March 17 take place during the last exact square between Uranus and Pluto at 15 Aries/Capricorn. This time, the square occurs in great proximity to the Moon’s Nodes, and Mars in Aries, adding considerable intensity and charge.

We are well aware at this point of the meanings and effects of the Uranus/
MUNDANE Astrology

FERNANDEZ

Pluto square in those Cardinal signs – on ongoing collective identity crisis, an ongoing call to advance social rights and emancipation, and a strong need to redefine systems and leadership in the world. While it becomes obvious that old approaches and mentalities are failing, it is not always easy to see what can replace the obsolete. In other words, this configuration calls for progress and change, but in a way that requires caution and right action. Uranus speaks of higher mind approach and enlightened social ideals, calls for freedom and emancipation, while Pluto speaks of the need to dig down to the core issues, power needs, and the proper management of resources. To understand the Pluto/Uranus square, I refer to the symbol of the tree that on the one hand has to dig deep roots (Pluto), in order to be able to grow high branches and reach closer to the Sun (Uranus) in a way that is stable.

Under Pluto/Uranus square, any system that resist upgrading and changing cannot subsist. The currents are too strong, and not conducive to sustain any “status quo.” This is a configuration that requires bold moves, risk, and the combination of higher inspiration with grounded emotions. Uranus and Pluto must work together.

Failing to create a change and foster progress will lead to fragmentation and collapse. However, ideistically pushing for change without understanding the core causes of a problem can also induce crises. For example, we can remember the beginning of the Uranus/Pluto square, refer to the symbol of the tree that on the one hand has to dig deep roots (Pluto), in order to be able to grow high branches and reach closer to the Sun (Uranus) in a way that is stable.

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THE ELECTION DAY CHART

The election day chart shows a very charged and defiant Mars/Uranus on the South Node, squaring Pluto in Capricorn. In other words, the call for a change is very strong, but both opposing parties will “fight this duel to death.” Notwithstanding, a Libra North Node, ruled by Venus in Taurus calls for a more moderate a level headed approach to find true solutions. Negotiation and compromises will be necessary. It is indeed interesting that one of the leading parties running for the elections is led by two leaders, a male (Herzog) and a female (Livni), reflecting the promise of this North Node (See below)

The logistical operation of the elections is likely to be convoluted and perhaps raise controversy with Mercury (Logistics) conjunct Neptune in Pisces (unexpected twists, and deficient management that can raise concern over proper counting of votes, or similar issues)

THE LEADING PARTY’S CHARTS

The two leading parties were the Likud (right wing) led by current PM Benjamin Netanyahu, and Zionist Union (left/centrist wing) led by a pair, Yizhak Herzog and Tzipi Livni. Interestingly, both Netanyahu and Herzog have Libra Moons (for Herzog, it is also conjunct Venus), while Livni has an Aries Moon (along with Mars in Aries).

Israel election Day
March 17, 2015
10pm
Jerusalem
Netanyahu was born on a Solar Eclipse in Libra, in close conjunction to Israel’s Ascendant (which is 23 Libra)—eclipse births are prominent for people in position of leadership, particularly in this case, in the 10th house of politics and legislation.

As we can see in this chart, Libras are not necessarily the peace loving hippies, as Netanyahu has actually isolated Israel from foreign support due to his nationalistic policies. In fact, Libra is the sign of controversy and duality—particularly with Neptune in Libra, a person can develop a deep fear of losing him or herself in others, triggering a compensating mechanism of defensive behavior. Such a person can stubbornly hold on to his or her position in fear of being a victim and giving in to others. This can lead to the reluctance to compromise. In Netanyahu’s chart, the Mars/Pluto conjunction in Leo adds to his defensive stance, lack of trust, and sense of entitlement (note that Mars rules his 4th house North Node – defending his homeland).

With Saturn about to conjunct his natal Venus in Sagittarius, we can anticipate the intensification of the investigation into the accusations of abuse of public (12th house) funds (Venus), possibly leading to corruption charges later on, as Saturn squares itself on his Venus.

For the election time, the heavy Mars/Uranus transits in Aries in his 4th house and on his North Node, promises trouble and division. For the whole election period, divisive Mars in Aries opposes his New Moon in Libra, showing fragmentation, defensive stances, and possible isolation. It is clear that he will be in a very stressful place, and engage in a fierce battle. This does not necessarily mean defeat per se, but it does allude to a position of weakness and stress.

The Moon in Aquarius on election day, opposing his Mars/Pluto, suggests disappointment.

The transiting North Node on his natal Mercury can point to an eventual agreement and compromise to form a coalition—striking a “deal.”

Herzog leader of the Labor party, and co-leader of the Zionist Union party (with Livni), has discussed his aspiration to re-engage in peace negotiations with the...
Palestinian authorities, and stop the existing settlement expansion which has caused considerable controversy and derailed Israel foreign relations. Herzog is a second generation politician, as his father was formerly the President of Israel.

Astrologically, being limited to a Solar Chart, we do not see very striking configurations, except for the Transiting Sun (Leadership) locking on his Natal Sun/Jupiter square. If we rely on this only, we can see that the days following the elections (As the Sun to Sun becomes exact), are favourable to him. Yet, as the Sun ingresses into Aries (March 21), it comes to square his natal Mars (0 Cancer) the same time transiting Mars in Aries comes to oppose his natal Venus. Thus, clashes and a change of direction in forming a coalition and negotiations are to be expected.

Livni, probably the most prominent leading female in Israeli politics since Golda Meir, has had many close calls to the leadership position. In the 2009 elections, even though she had the most votes, she lost the leading position of Prime Minister because she would not compromise and unify with right wing religious parties. She is in a leadership partnership with Herzog in the Zionist Union Party, and if they take the election, would rotate their position.

Astrologically, we rely on a solar chart again, but it shows a strong Aries figure, notably with Mars in Aries on her South Node, square her Sun, a figure who is obviously very driven and defensive, or perhaps the typical archetype of a female having to forge her way in a man’s world. The transits to her chart are striking for this period of time, notably the Pluto/Uranus square locking on her natal Sun exactly. She will also experience a Mars return, and is also close to her second Saturn return. These transits can certainly show strong activation and the possibility for her to have a more prominent role in Israeli leadership.

Pluto/Uranus locking on her Sun can also lead to political intrigues and violations of trust from either side. Later on, as Pluto/Uranus eventually lock on her natal Mars, we can expect tumultuous years ahead, strong activation and leadership, her serving an instrument of change, though this configuration implies there are going to be intense power struggles and unexpected change of direction. This level of activation in her chart again suggest she will not take the back seat and watch the show, but is likely to be quite involved.

Her natal Jupiter/North Node is also in conjunction with Israel’s Ascendant (23 Libra), showing the opportunity for her to have influence over the country’s development sooner or later.

Looking at the chart of all three candidates, what is striking is that Netanyahu’s Sun is positioned on Livni’s North node, and Herzog’s Venus around 27 degrees Libra... which could suggest a “menage a trois,” and shared coalition between the parties. This is a likely scenario given that the balance of power, as far as transits go, do not seem to favor any candidate in any striking way, possibly showing an even distribution of vote that will invite compromise and cooperation. This is also the spirit of the North Node in Libra in the election chart.

Addendum, March 18, 2015

In surprising results, Benjamin Netanyahu has won the Israeli elections in what seems to be a strong lead ahead of his closest competitor Herzog. It seems that the Mercury/Neptune conjunction brought this unexpected twist, for even in the first part of the counting, they were neck and neck. The following morning, it was revealed that Netanyahu had gained a sharp advantage in his victory, and will seemingly not have significant obstacles in forming his coalition.

The coming days remain decisive as he will experience powerful Mars in Aries oppositions to his natal Libra planet, notably an opposition to his Sun (leadership), signifying adversity and division.
Breaking Free and the Election of 2016

by Jack Hopkins

Big changes are never easy. They come at the worse possible time and force us to face our deepest fears. What’s worse, they have a nasty habit of showing up we’re vulnerable, and we think no one suspects. Even so, the dread they can arouse in us rarely lasts long. Once we get past the illusion we’re going to escape, it starts to sink in that somehow, the time is right. The opportunity we’ve been expecting all along has just arrived.

Despite what we would like everyone to believe, we all long for change. Deep down, we know this is our chance to break free.

In March of 2015, the last of the seven squares of Pluto to Uranus will complete. Pluto in Capricorn holds all our ambitions, both noble and selfish, against its unblinking gaze. We’re compelled to either commit to our higher aspirations or to justify ourselves, raging against our own ignorance and frustration. Uranus in Aries wants to execute on the plan provided by Pluto, but neither one will wait for the other. Witness the manifestation of this alignment in the Arab Spring, the turmoil in Syria and the Ukraine, and most recently, in the rise of ISIS and the crisis in Yemen.

Pluto has already moved to the 5th Harmonic Pisces sub-phase of Capricorn, emphasizing a need to come to an emotional and inclusive grasp of the world around us. It will stay in Pisces until February of 2017, right around the time the next US President takes office. During this time, Pluto will offer us the choice of either listening to our intuition and honoring our spiritual natures or finding escape in some self-deception of our own choosing. If this time is to be successful, we will have to find a way to combine the realism of Capricorn with the faith and vision of Pisces. With both Neptune and Chiron in Pisces, keeping that vision on track and avoiding the tendency to diffuse our focus and cloud our thinking will be the big challenge.

As we get closer to the election, Jupiter will form a series of three waning squares to Saturn, opposing Neptune from August of 2015 until May of 2016. This can either be seen as a call to incorporate the insights and healing nature of Neptune into our political agenda thru such issues as inequality, education and the environment or to create an atmosphere of deception concerning where candidates stand, with little to distinguish either party.

The eclipse of September 1st, 2016 foretells the election results. A Leo Ascendant with its ruler, the Sun, in the first house promises a leader that will take the country into a bold new direction. Neptune conjuncts with the South Node, indicating a need to draw from our past the idealism and hope that generations which preceded us have sought to preserve. Uranus forms a parallel to the Eclipse, emphasizing the theme of liberty and freedom, also is a part of this same tradition. Interesting, Mars is out of bounds in the Eclipse Chart. At the time of the election on November 8th, Mars will have returned inside the range of the Sun’s maximum declination, only to be replaced by Venus at exactly the same OOB degree. If the eclipse chart calls for a real change, will the election chart send the message that real change is exactly what we all are looking for?
A Brief Introduction to the Mundane Astrology of Middle East Conflicts and the Election of 2016

by Roy Gillette

Nearly all of us have been affected by and have opinions about the Middle East crisis. Its origins seem to go back to earliest times. Here are key extracts from an in-depth study. It touches on the astrology of its past two thousand years, since the destruction of the Jewish temple by the Romans in 70 CE, the consequences of which continue to haunt all our lives to this day.

Put yourself in the place of the Jewish people, confronted by arrogant Roman imperial power (Sun/Jupiter/Mercury in Leo) determined to destroy the very basis of their culture (opposed Pluto in Aquarius). Imagine the hurt and horror of facing the denial of everything you have worked for, believed in and placed all your reliance upon (T-square between Neptune in Aries, Venus in Cancer and Saturn in Libra). How much resentment would this experience, triggered by present enemies become enshrined in the future against one you come to defend yourself from (Moon in Scorpio squared Mercury in Leo)?

The only way to survive is to hold, sustain and perpetuate the values of your people against any who seek to deny them; to be passed down the memory of this moment from generation to generation (Moon in Scorpio grand trine North Node in Aries and Venus in Cancer).

So, it was for this cast out people for millennia, until they suffered such horrors that in 1948 circumstances opened a Window of opportunity that enabled them to return to their ‘Promised land’. Nearly two thousand years of remembering and yearning was the packed determination to defend and grow from this opportunity. They would be as proud and uncompromising in defending it, as had been the Romans in taking it away (Moon, Pluto [in almost exact opposition to its position at the destruction], Saturn and Mars in Leo [conjunct the destruction Mercury]). They would fight to the last against anyone who denied their right to expand and bring more and more of their people ‘back home’ (Sun in Taurus square Mars in Leo, trined Jupiter in Sagittarius). What ever was said against them by the international community (Venus in Cancer in 9th squared Neptune in Libra in 12th), they would insist upon their religious right to their land (Mercury in Gemini trined Neptune).

Unfortunately much had happened during the Jewish exile from Palestine. Then, in the decades immediately before the foundation of Israel, post World War One arrangements had been handled with naive arrogance by the victorious powers - Britain, France and USA. The arbitrary creation of kingdoms across cultures and religions, following the break up of the previous ruling Ottoman Empire, was a recipe for conflict (Mercury in Aries trine Moon, Neptune and Jupiter in Leo, all three exactly conjunct on the day. The consequences of the Holocaust of World War Two then made Balfour’s well intentioned accord to enable Jewish settlement in Palestine uncontrollable (Sun in Taurus becomes the Sun of the Israel birth chart).

The dire consequences directly and indirectly resultant from these decisions are well known. The destructive events and suffering and the resultant decisions based on traumatic defensive anxiety all have astrological connections to the Destruction of the Temple, Foundation of Israel and Middle East Mandate charts. Time and time again, knee jerk decisions are driven by mindless reactions to the transits to these charts. Research the dates of the wars and invasions and see it for yourself.
The US reaction to the 2001, 9/11 atrocity in New York is a prime example. The first Solar Return Chart of the event clearly shows the trap that no wise, astro-cycle-aware policy maker would fall into. It has Jupiter and Neptune now opposed on an axis exact to their 1920 Middle Mandate degree position. Clearly unaware that their own charts were dangerously connected to this opposition, George Bush and Tony Blair became mindlessly consumed by the transit, really believing they could beneficially impose Western ways of government on a culture they did not understand and whose history they clearly did not know. Concocting reasons to invade Iraq with ‘shock and awe,’ they further destabilised the region. Out of the chaos, ten years later comes ISIL, specifically committed to the destruction of the Mandate agreement, with a foundation chart packed with Aries planets close to its degrees.

Observe six major planets in signs ruled by Mars, Robert Hand points with brutal clarity to the heart of the ISIL birth chart and its role in the Middle East; its stated aim to sweep away the present boundaries, imposed on the area by Western powers before and after the key 1920 Middle East Mandate Conference, and establish a fundamentalist Islamic state.

The synastry between the two charts says exactly this. ISIL’s Moon applies to conjunct Uranus in Aries, which conjuncts the Mandate’s Mercury. It was the Mandate Mercury’s trine to its Moon applying to an exact Jupiter/Neptune conjunction in Leo that symbolised the arrogant ignorance of the Western Powers dysfunctional nation building. The synastry also describes ISIL’s aims and strategy. ISIL’s Neptune conjuncts the Mandate’s Uranus in the 9th; the central focus of change will be on religious sacrifice. ISIL’s Pluto in Capricorn on its descendant opposed the Mandate’s Pluto in Cancer; the Mandate’s reorganisation of the ‘family’ structure of the Middle East will be destroyed by killing anyone they see as an opponent. This way of struggling for ‘ownership’ of the map of the Middle East is further emphasised by both charts having a similar orientation and the same Ascendant; except that ISIL’s Midheaven is not in Aries, but conjunct Mercury in Pisces; further emphasising the very public nature of sacrifice of their own soldiers as well as their enemies.
When seeking resolution and easing of the suffering of so many good, innocent people caught up in the conflict, it is important to realise that the above astro-connections are but a fragment of the cosmic tapestry behind a story thousands of years in the making. It is a story of culturally enshrined injustice and consequent retribution, against which the background of Romeo and Juliet, even the great Ancient Greek tragedies, pall by comparison into little local difficulties. Time and time again, most recently in the 20th century, the Western Powers have intervened at the peril of only making matters worse.

Yet, as with Hitler (the product of similarly unwise, even brutal peace agreement forced on Germany after World War One), when confronted with uncompromising domineering, mass slaughter, bottom lines of corrective force are unavoidable. When we apply such correction, we have to be careful that it does not merely cut off a false Hydra head, only to see two more grow in its place. Only with a deep historical understanding and can we prevent our actions being counter-productive exasperators of the problem.

To move away from a Middle East waste-land, similar to Europe after World War Two, a conference for everyone without pre-conditions is needed. This must cast away all self-interest and manipulative strategies, and instead address and implement solutions that get to the core of the problems of the area. Real change will be based on: the giving up of privilege enjoyed by force of arms; redress for those who have been dispossessed; the genuine abandonment of conflict; and acceptance of everyone's right to exist in peace and prosperity. Only then will come forgiveness, truth and reconciliation, and the resolution of this seemingly unending curse.

Notes and References
1 This article combines analysis first published in “Working with the Planets” The Astrological Journal (January 2015), with new material from Roy’s upcoming book Reversing the Race to Global Destruction. For fuller information on the astrology of the Middle East, nation building and oil from ancient to recent times, download and study the pdf ‘Seeing and Solving World Problems with Mundane Astrology File 1’ from http://www.
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Larry Schwimmer, former Sr. Marketing VP for Nabisco, Smith-Barney/CitiGroup; and currently a successful Astrologer & Astrology columnist for The Huffington Post

Labour - Alice A Bailey gives the Hydra nine heads, (other sources say innumerable). All but one of these heads is false. When Hercules has the courage to lift the foul creature to the light the false heads fade away and he can see and sever the creature’s one true head and truly kill the beast. So should we act whenever we try to put things right.


ASTROLOGY CONFERENCES 2015

MARCH
3/20-22 – Queer Astrology Conference
www.queerastrology.com
3/28-29 – Horary Weekend Course – London, UK
www.londonschoolofastrology.co.uk

APRIL
4/9-13 – GLAC – Ann Arbor, Mi
www.greatlakesastrology.com
4/9-11 – AFA The Cosmic Clock – Tempe, Az
www.astrologers.com

MAY
5/1-3 – Polaris Astrology Conference
Oslo, Norway www.polarisastrologi.no
5/9-10 – Astrology Student Conference
London, UK www.astroconference.com
5/22-24 – NORWAC – Seattle, Wa
www.norwac.net
TBA – NCGR-NYC Educational Conference
www.Astrologynyc.org
5/30-31 – Medical Astrology Weekend
Easton, UK www.londonschoolofastrology.co.uk

SEPTEMBER
9/11-14 – AAGB – Wyboston, UK
www.astrologicalassociation.com
9/18-20 and 9/25-27 – STA Horary Practitioner’s Certificate Course
www.londonschoolofastrology.co.uk

OCTOBER
10/22-25 – OPA ASTROLOGERS RETREAT
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10/22-25 – SOTA – Niagara Falls, Canada
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MUNDANE Astrology
Canada Forecast
by Inge Lohse

This Aries Ingress is ushered in by a Solar Eclipse at 29° Pisces; promising both fear and excitement for the Canadian people and its government. The Sun rules the private caucus meetings of the Harper government, not everything discussed will remain confidential, as Aries is a public sign.

Mercury in Pisces rules both Prime Minister Harper and the 1st house of the people. The messenger says clarity in communication is crucial, if progress is to be made during this critical economic time. Oil and gas prices are at an all time low and the Canadian dollar threatens to continue its downward slide.

Innovative new security legislation put forth by the Harper government will spark aggressive emotional reaction. Adjustments and revisions will ultimately smooth things over enough to pass the new law. (Moon and Uranus are trine \ Jupiter)

Moon in Aries conjunct the South Node brings up unresolved problems from the past. The Moon, conjunct revolutionary Uranus and violent Mars, squares complicated Pluto in the 4th house of our natural resources. Negotiations with our neighbors will not be easy during this Ingress. Canada will take a combative stance with the Aries stellium in the 7th house of relationships with our neighbors, making it difficult to reach amiable partnership agreements. Neptune will undoubtedly help to heal the wounds left by the Aries energy.

Venus in Taurus and Mars in Aries rule the 2nd and 8th houses of the nation’s finances. Both planets in dignity, they imply great potential for economic stabi-
South Africa
President Jacob Zuma of South Africa and his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on the 12th of February 2015
by Heiltje le Roux

While Mr Zuma was delivering his address, rowdy members of the controversial EFF party were forcibly escorted out of parliament and members of the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, walked out of the building. The EFF’s Julius Malema demanded to know when Mr Zuma was going to give tax payers the money back that was used to upgrade his personal estate. This is a sore point for the president, amidst ongoing allegations about corruption from the public and the media. Transiting Sun in Aquarius opposition Jupiter in Leo, was squaring Mr Zuma’s Saturn Uranus in Taurus conjunction at the time. It suggests that the financial and politically powerful should not benefit more than the common people, who really needs support the most.

Ahead of the proceedings, it was discovered that cell phone signals were jammed. No tweets, photos or reports could be sent by members of the press, which is a violation of democratic rights and probably illegal as well. After some chanting from the media, communication was eventually restored. Pluto in Capricorn, squaring Uranus North Node conjunction in Aries, opposing South Node in Libra, was activating Mr Zuma’s Mercury in Aries. From his personal Aries Sun perspective, everything he said in his public address is subsequently being scrutinised for fundamentally misleading statements, and has been highlighted in the press.

Transiting Neptune in Pisces is slowly passing over his Natal Venus in Pisces, approaching his Pisces South Node, Virgo North Node, which could be a wonderful opportunity to highlight issues from a perspective of values that matter to all, on a most practical level. And he did address crime towards women and children and how education infrastructure has been implemented, and that fewer people are jobless. But, although his numbers are correct, the scale and content of the issues was not mentioned. For instance, he highlights how many people are employed, but fails to mention that 63% is unemployed and looking for work.

Transiting Mars Venus in Pisces was conjunct his Moon in Pisces. This could be the reason for his choice to ignore the uncomfortable chaos of police escorts and shouting, and to just continue reading his speech. The only thing that the nation could see on television was the President reading his speech, while everybody wondered what the noises and scuffles in the background were.

All this is being held captive by transiting Chiron in Pisces, slowly eroding Mr Zuma’s Piscean comfort zone, squaring his Jupiter conjunct Mars in Gemini, his own Chiron being in Leo, conjunct Pluto. His lack of education is painfully present and has always been highlighted by the media. Let us hope that transiting Saturn in Sagittarius, squaring Neptune in Pisces, conjunct his Venus in Pisces, will bring him more insight and will reveal how to dissolve mistakes and to bring truth and understanding that is so crucial for healing in South Africa. Transiting Chiron in Pisces, still close to his South Node in Pisces North Node in Virgo, will hopefully remind him of Universal Values that can heal the wounds of the past.
The result of the January 25, 2015 elections in Greece comes as no surprise; the pressure that had been exercised on the Greek people by governments which supported bailouts and loans had become unbearable, and a grand change of governing order was as a one-way road.

On April 23, 2010, Prime Minister at the time, George Papandreou, announced that the country was to be bailed out by IMF (while transiting Pluto was forming a triangle with Greece’s Jupiter and activating its natal Jupiter-Pluto square: an aspect of entanglement and financial scenarios and irregularities). Greece’s demise had just begun...

The impoverished Greeks found themselves at an impasse; they naturally wanted a government that would support Greece’s stay in Eurozone but which would also be in a position to look its creditors in the eye; a leadership that would pursue the kind of reforms to help country grow rather than destroy it. That was the alternative SYRIZA and current Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras put forth in their election campaign.

The new left government lead by Alexis Tsipras as Prime Minister was sworn on January 27, 2015, at 6:13 pm, in Athens, Greece.

With luminous and leadership-prone Leo rising, the new government has already become internationally known. Jupiter in the first house of the chart suggests that government and people are sharing many and great expectations. The opposition of Mercury to Jupiter indicates that the government will have to express itself forcefully when it comes to implementing its plans while also caring to avoid verbosity.

The Sun in Aquarius states the government’s radical character; that it has come to revolutionise the up to now conservative scenery of the Greek election results; that it moreover aims at effecting substantial changes. The conjunction of Mercury - second house ruler - with the Sun suggests a clear intention to rene...
tiate (Mercury retrograde) Greece’s debt and relieve the working classes; to diminish a great burden which had made everyday life unbearable; to pursue solutions to matters of public health, policing but also the rehabilitation of the civil services (sixth house).

The Moon in the tenth house and almighty in Taurus confirms that we are dealing with a popular government which intends to satisfy its voters’ requests. At the same time Moon’s square to the Sun suggests that the people will adopt an exigent stance towards their leaders, they are bound to be most pressurising and the government’s strictest critic. This aspect also shows that there is a large portion of the people who will seek to damn the governing coalition even when they should in fact praise it. In any case, it constitutes a polarising aspect - thankfully separating. Moreover, Moon’s square to Mercury harbours the risk that the Greeks get “lost in translation”, something that the officials of Tsipras’ government should keep in mind. Furthermore, Moon, ruling the twelfth house, placed in the tenth and squaring the Mercury - Sun conjunction implies the conniving attempts of certain dearest foes to harm the government - and particularly the Prime Minister - in any way they can. Nevertheless, Moon’s triangle with Pluto indicates that in the end, the elected representatives will manage to bring about several reforms. However, the T-square formed by the Ascendant, the Moon and the Sun underlines the separatist circumstances as the Prime Minister’s enemies act in reasonable unison, forming an unyielding crowd which will be a great “headache” for the new regime.

Mercury rules also the eleventh house in the government’s chart, which brings on the table the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle deemed necessary or certain mobility where members of parliament hope from one party to the next (Mercury retrograde). What’s more, it is evident that the parliament will draw back to light issues of the past, aiming to deliver justice as Uranus - ruling the seventh house - is in the ninth house receiving a sextile from Mercury.

The coalition’s action is clearly geared towards resolving economic, lending and bailout issues, with Mars dominating the eighth house of its chart. Mars’ sextiles with the Moon and Pluto are promising as it seems that any settlements will aim at benefiting the people and overhauling the current system - characterised by austerity and endless loan repayments. Could it be that Mars’ conjunction with Chiron involves the element of redemption? Probably yes, should we take into account that a sextile is formed between this conjunction and the Ceres-Pluto conjunction (archetypically age-long adversaries/negotiators of matters of life and death, who always find a middle way).

The great battles that will be fought over Greece’s debt are emphasised by the square of Saturn to Neptune (ruler of the eighth house). Saturn, found in the fourth house of the government’s chart, is also signalling the hard face of the opposition, which up to now constituted the country’s established order. Additionally, it seems that, among other developments, during the above negotiations, the scandals that accompany the policy of lending will gradually be coming to light.

Aquarius rules the government’s seventh house, meaning that its officials will seek alliances in other political camps - nations, while a ninth house Uranus doesn’t rule out that negotiations between government officials with “allies” and “friends” will end up in appeals to international courts. The square between Uranus and Pluto (ruler of the fourth house of Tsipras government chart), indicates that domestic and foreign enemies are attempting to overthrow the government, using dark and sly means. Opposing it stands the might of Uranus’ triangle with the Ascendant and Jupiter, which reinforces the country as an entity.

Greece’s Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, has his Sun in Leo, Moon in Scorpio and Gemini rising. Clever and flexible where necessary, he is firm in his beliefs. Alexis Tsipras has told Giannis Bardopoulos (who works as a photo journalist) that he was born around 1-2 am, at a break during an
SOTIRAKI

Interview the Prime Minister gave to the newspaper “Kathimerini”. Mr. Bardopoulos has corrected the time and believes that the premier was born at 1.30 am, in Athens, Greece.

What is impressive in his natal chart, is Uranus’ (ruler of the MC) trining the MC, which in combination with Jupiter and Ceres in his tenth house, means that his is a born leader and negotiator and indeed of a rather revolutionary but also uniting scheme, precisely like SYRIZA, which brings together a multitude of left forces.

The conjunction of Venus, Saturn and the ruler of the ascendant, Mercury, in Tsipras’ second house, in Cancer, speaks of a person with a sound criterion regarding economy, in position to successfully manage such issues. If in this equation we add the triangle formed between the aforementioned stellium and the Jupiter - Ceres conjunction, we conclude that we are most likely dealing with a powerful negotiator able of meaningful political oration. And, naturally, of a person who will shine on the world stage with the ruler of his Ascendant, Mercury, triangle his Jupiter.

Let us proceed to the natal chart of Greece. As regards my country, I personally work with the natal chart cast for the London Protocol, when the Great Powers of the then political world formally recognised the Greek state: February 2, 1830. The exact time the protocol was signed is unknown, but based on numerous facts, I believe the chart’s ascendant is approximately on the 27 degree Taurus.

If we compare Greece’s chart with Alexis Tsipras’, we will see an, I’d say, karmic synastry, as Greece’s Sun is in conjunction with Tsipras’ MC, his North Node is in opposition to Greece’s Moon and in sextile with its Sun, while Tsipras’ Moon is in opposition to Greece’s Ascendant and forms a triangle with its Venus (ruler of the country’s Ascendant). Tsipras’ Ascendant is in Greece’s first house, in the same sign as its Moon. His Sun opposes Greece’s Uranus, while his Uranus is in triangle with Greece’s Moon. There are many more aspects but these ones show mutual activation of planets and significant indicators of the two horoscopes, stating that Tsipras has indeed come to influence the course of things in the Greek state, seeking to activate Uranus in its MC and bring about the great change.

In Alexis Tsipras’ secondary progressions, the progressed Sun activates his natal Ceres-Jupiter conjunction, closing in towards Jupiter (in the next three years). It seems that he holds many bargaining aces up his sleeve (topping the list - in my opinion - his Minister of Finance, Gianis Varoufakis). On one hand, it is evident that Tsipras will soon face great trouble as the impending lunar eclipse and the Uranus-Pluto square will impact his natal Mercury.

On the other hand, Pluto forms a triangle with his progressed Sun. In conclusion, the horoscopes of the government, Greece and the Prime Minister show that the road to the country’s recovery is long and strenuous. The government has indeed come to take significant weight off the shoulders of the strict towards it but nevertheless sovereign, people, and intends to implement reforms and make moves that will be akin to revolution for the up to now status quo in Greece. I believe that at the moment when officials of the present government will be striving to renegotiate the country’s debt, others will be doing everything in their power to overthrow the government, which must however remain united and flexible in order to sustain the shakes that lie ahead. The deliberations that will come to pass will be many and hard and hope will be turning into reality only if all of governments’ officials be prudent rather than inflexible. Last, it appears that numerous scandals will be uncovered and the last word will lie with courts, domestic on matters of the interior, and foreign (trials or diplomatic liaisons) regarding bailouts and debts.

2015 will neither be easy on the people nor on the government but it looks like a vaulting horse whence significant changes may be achieved and which will, in good time, lead the country to essentially better days.

Visit Smaro Sotiraki’s website at www.smarosotiraki.blogspot.gr
The political situation in Norway is blessed with stability and a strong tradition to take good care of its citizens. It is a large country with plenty of resources and a small population (5.1 million people), which makes it a unique country in comparison to the rest of the world. Poverty (Saturn on the South Node) has been a part of the history of Norway and made the citizens and its rulers responsible and modest. The tax rates are thus high and the social welfare system is well developed. However today we see a stronger leaning towards more privatization and it goes against the traditional socialist tendency.

Things changed a lot after the bombings on Utoya which was an attack on not only several innocents, but also to the heart of Norwegian politics, namely the socialist one. The assault was aimed at the AUF (Labor Party) summer camp for youths and the reason was their humanistic attitude towards a multicultural society. Mars was then exactly on Pluto in Gemini, Gemini ruling all things related to multicultural exchange. It came as Neptune just had ingressed into Pisces, and Chiron in Pisces was on the south node of Norway’s chart. It was promised that it would never take out the heart of Norwegian politics, but it looks like Anders Behring Breivik, the terrorist, touched a part of the Norwegian underground and even though most people wont admit it, it was still a part of the downfall of the then ruling coalition government headed by the Labor Party.

Breivik’s earlier connection to the Liberal Party, Fremskrittspartiet, was emphasized in the aftermath, and together with the right wing party, Hoyre, they ran away with the majority of the votes after the election in 2013, as Neptune was exactly on the South Node in the chart of Norway.
Neptune is idealism and the shift from left to right was part of this transit. Norway is heading into Pisces land, where the wish to loosen government control (Pisces south node) takes priority over the north node in Virgo, to have control over its resources and a sober politic. Mercury, the ruler of the South Node is in Taurus conjunct Jupiter with Venus also in Taurus, showing the enormous resources and also it’s tendency to not want to be a part of a bigger community as the EU. Norway found oil in the mid 70’s and large amount of money was heading straight into the country. Today the oil fund is a staggering 1000 billion dollars. Despite this wealth, as Neptune continues its journey towards the descendant axis, we see the currency is loosening power, the real estate marked is overheated, the rates for borrowing money all time low and the capitalistic idealism of the current government is evident, as they work towards privatization. Neptune is for the moment trining Norway’s natal Neptune and we see a potential crash swimming closer to our shores, like a shark waiting to attack. Many people are then in a situation where they have huge debts and with oil industry cutting back, it is a vulnerable scene, especially because the economy is so oil dependent.

It is a time for Norway to be humble and not wreck a perfectly operative and humane system. However the naivety of the leaders is reflected perfectly in the chart of the current prime Minister, Erna Solberg, a Pisces with Pluto opposing the Sun landing elegantly on Norway’s nodal axis. As Saturn squares Norway’s Saturn in this period, this is no time to be naive. Erna Solberg will feel this too, as Saturn will square her Sun, Pluto and nodal axis at the end of this year. She will be under pressure. And it looks like the destiny of Norway is tied into her situation, being so tightly knit together astrologically. Norway is a country with the Sun conjunct Pluto. Power can just as easily be lost as gained.
USA Progressed Mars is Retrograde
by Anne Ortelee

Did you know the United States Progressed Mars stationed and went retrograde for 80 YEARS in July 2006? Mars will go backwards until 2086 — well past the lifetimes of most of us! Mars travels backwards to station at 0 Libra and returns to pass where he stations in 2148. Mars entered his shadow, 0 Libra, in September of 1940, during the Battle of Britain as World War 2 heated up. It got me thinking about what Mars going retrograde will mean to us as citizens of our country and the world?

The USA July 4 1776, 5:10 pm LMT, Philadelphia, PA chart was publicized by Ebenezer Sibly, an astrologer and Freemason, eleven years after the Declaration of Independence was signed. Washington, Franklin and Hancock, principals in the movement toward independence from the crown of England, were USA Freemasons. Masonic imagery appears in our country's symbols, on our currency and in the physical layout and design of Washington, D.C.

Our Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights were based on fundamental beliefs of Masons. Thirteen of the fourteen signatories to the Constitution were members of the fraternity of Masons. Freemason principles include: Faith must be the center of our lives. All men and women are the children of God. No one has the right to tell another person what he or she must think or believe. Each person has a responsibility to be a good citizen, obeying the law. It is important to work to make the world a better place for all. Honor and integrity are keys to a meaningful life.

As always, we evaluate any chart’s natal potential to discern what a progression means. Whether the chart was consciously elected by our Freemason Founding Fathers (I like that idea!) or chosen by the cosmos, universe and fate, the USA chart has a profound western, or “other” orientation, echoing many of the Masonic principles. Back in 1776, the chart would not have the outer planets of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The seven visible cosmic bodies are placed in terrific locations to support and create a country which would thrive by following the golden rules of the Masons.

We notice the lovely, expansive, generous, faith based Sagittarius ascendant chart ruler, Jupiter, is exalted in Cancer and sitting on the midpoint of Venus and Sun in the 7th house. The “other” person, face to face relationships, public, and benevolent outward orientation enhances and magnifies the experience of luck, power and benevolence of Jupiter, Venus and Sun in nurturing, caring, cardinal Cancer. What you send out to the world comes back to you!

There is an emphasis or stellium of Cancer planets ~ befitting our iconic imagery of home, motherhood and apple pie. The Cancer planets are ruled by humanitarian, collective, community oriented Moon in Aquarius in the third house. The moon’s placement echoes the seventh house theme of the Golden Rule or “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.” The Masons suggest members “secure the inward blessing of our own consciences rather than submitting to the pressure of our peers or the expediency of the moment.” Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote “The integrity of our own mind is the only thing that is sacred.” Placing the Moon in detached, community oriented Aquarius focuses the Moon on the collective good rather than the personal good. Whatever is
good for my brother (third house) is good for the other (seventh house) and thus good for me (ascendant). The Aquarian Moon is ruled by Saturn in his exaltation in Libra, highly placed in the chart. Libra's focus on fairness, partnership, work towards parity, balance and connection, gives the Aquarian Moon a "No, You go first; take your proper share of a very abundant pot."

The western emphasis, angular and above the horizon orientation of the chart suggest the whole world watches what goes on in our country~ we have an exceptionally public chart. Thomas Jefferson's observation - "Always commit an act as though the world were looking at you" are Masonic guide words. The placement of the 5 of the 7 planets on "their", the other person, one to one partners, and open enemy side of the chart, imply we rapidly reap what we sow, good or bad. Jupiter in Cancer, sitting on Venus and Sun's midpoint, brings EVERYTHING back home to us as ascendant is ruled by Sagittarius~ one of Jupiter's favorite placements. What goes around comes around ~ times Venus, Sun and Jupiter!

In any mundane chart, one looks at the malefic planet, Mars and Saturn, placements to see the problem areas for a country. Malefic Mars is in the seventh house, in the mutable, indecisive, chatty, air, powerless, intellectual, curious, sibling oriented sign of Gemini. Our enemies talk about us, gossip about us, are easily divided and not particularly effective, preferring to talk rather than take action. Mercury, ruler of Mars, is retrograde, in non-communicative Cancer, making malefic Mars even weaker. Mars becomes very security oriented with Mercury's placement in the eighth house of money and assets of others. The natal placement suggests we can buy our enemies cooperation by supporting and taking care of them. It also suggests they select actions based on their financial interests and are of two minds when dealing with us.

The placement of Saturn, the chart's second Malefic, is in Libra, the sign of Saturn's exaltation. Saturn rides high in the USA chart, in the tenth house placed in the house he rules. It says we, as a country, must conduct ourselves in an honorable manner or risk a profound fall from power, particularly during Saturn transits, transits from other planets, progressions and solar arcs to natal Saturn. Saturn as the accountant, karma keeper and deliverer of results of our actions invites and mandates the Mason's guidelines. Deviation from "Each person has a responsibility to be a good citizen, obeying the law" is discouraged by the chart. It has a mechanism in place to promptly deliver the results of actions in a public and quite visible manner. Saturn rules the second house, so our financial security as a country, is dependent on acting in a continually responsible and honorable manner as a citizen of the world.

Once we have a firm grasp of the natal chart's "rules and regulations" as described by its planets, signs and their house placement, we can begin to evaluate what Mars, the malefic, going retrograde by progression in Libra at the top of our chart will mean to our country.

Mars first entered Libra by progression in 1940. Mars in Libra is enterprising and often finds itself placed in a position where he rules or leads others. Following World War 2, we found ourselves called a "World Leader" for Democracy and Freedom. We were one of two "Super Powers" or World Leaders -- as indicated by the dual nature of Libra. Mars in Libra is good for lawyers and surgeons, and finds friends among scientific, philosophical, religious, legal or business people. Certainly, as Mars has moved through the early degrees of Libra since 1940, those areas of the United States economy have grown in prominence and taken root all over our culture, replacing the agrarian and manufacturing nature of Mars in Virgo. Progressed Mars joined the Midheaven of the USA chart December 1942 which corresponds to our deep involvement in a two front war, European and Pacific, the turning tide of World War 2, the battle at Guadalcanal, the first successful nuclear reaction and Roosevelt approving $500 million to develop the first atomic weapons. Mars conjunct the USA Midheaven matches both Leadership and Partnership descriptions of Libra.

Mars joined to natal Saturn by progression in August of 1979. Up until 1979, Mars had been in a balsamic approach to Saturn for the entire existence of the United States. As a result of the balsamic approach and natal placement, Mars' activities were largely "shielded" from view, not particularly effective or quite "weak" as he loses his power in his approach to Saturn. However, once Mars JOINS to Saturn, in 1979, a brand new cycle begins ~ and Mars' actions become much more, more visible. First, Mars is right up there, high in the sky, next to natal Saturn. Second, conjunctions seed a new Mars/ Saturn cycle. Third, conditions have changed as the ruler of Progressed Mars is now Venus, in her exaltation in Pisces ~ community, connection, love, peace and the higher good for all need to be our guides for all actions. Venus as Mars' ruler suggests our "enemies" will have more strength and power, especially if they come from a place of poverty, want or profound religious connection to beliefs. Fourth, if we use Mercury as the ruler of Progressed Mars, because he rules Natal Mars, Mercury is now in HIS exaltation in Aquarius providing a brilliance, vision and detached understanding of the karmic principles of the founding Masons. After looking at that conjunction, I wonder if our Founding Fathers progressed the USA chart forward and said, "Terrific, if the United States of America makes it to 1979, we've got a terrific chart set up for the next few thousand years of our existence provided we follow Masonic rules."

The Mars/Saturn conjunction was the last progressed aspect before the progressed station and retrograde, so 1979 events will deeply impact, reflect and echo what we can expect during our eighty year Mars retrograde back to 0 Libra. We also want to watch what happens when Mars rejoins Saturn by conjunction in May of 2031 as echoes of 1979 will reappear. So what did happen in 1979?

In 1979, the citizens of Iran overthrew the Shah of Iran and installed the Muslim fundamentalist republic ruled by Ayatollah
Ruhollah Khomeini as Anastasio Somoza Debayle fled Nicaragua on the eve of the Marxist revolutionary victory. Both the Shah of Iran and Anastasio Somoza Debayle were dictators supported by the United States. Following the people’s revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua, Reagan-Bush engaged in the much publicized Iran Contra affair in the early 1980s. The United States sold arms to Iran, a supposedly avowed enemy, to fight Iraq, ruled by our friend Saddam Hussein. We also sold arms to Saddam Hussein. We supplied arms to both sides of the conflict. The United States used the secret money from the Iran arms sales to fund the Contras, an anti-communist guerrilla organization seeking to overthrow the 1979 revolutionary Marxist government of Nicaragua.

Also in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan after a Marxist regime took power. In December 1979, the Soviets launched a full-scale invasion of Afghanistan, installing a Soviet-backed Afghan government. They were met with fierce popular resistance of guerrilla forces, mujahideen, who pledged a jihad, or holy war, to expel the infidel invaders. Moscow’s troops were soon bogged down in a no-win conflict with Afghan fighters. Many people believe that long, drawn out war led to the Soviet Union’s economic collapse in 1989.

For years, the United States has supported brutal dictators who do what we want because we pay them. However, after 1979, we started to see our ability to do that type of behind the scenes work blocked, publicized, or discussed in a much more open manner. Global communication grew in speed, technology permitted free interconnections between various cultures and communities and people learned things they didn’t previously know about. As a result of the Age of Aquarius arriving, consensus, community, tribal, societal, group, information and knowledge moved out into much more public arenas. Our Mars behavior is more visible than it used to be! Natively, our Mars is Gemini allowed us to be a terrific liar ~ we could say one thing and do another, pretty much without consequences or charm our way out of the situation if we got caught. Now, that Mars started a new cycle with Saturn, we are operating under a different set of rules. Mars’ ability to control information is simply not what it used to be.

Mars is stationary for 2 to 3 days before and after it stops, so by progression, that period corresponds to 2 to 3 years or 2003 through 2009. Llewellyn George says “When a planet is direct, its power of its own inherent nature is normal, when retrograde the influence is subnormal among the benefics and abnormal among the Malefics.” Mars is a malefic so we can expect the retrograde progression to produce an abnormal behavior of Mars. Uh-oh, that doesn’t sound good! The time frame of 2003 corresponds with our invasion of Iraq. So as Mars stationed to go retrograde by progression, we began a war of choice in the same area of the world we lost “control” of back in 1979 when Mars joined with our Natal Saturn. We are in a conflict with Afghanistan, the same area of the world that economically brought the other super power, the Soviet Union, to its knees via a no-win conflict. We are engaged in fighting “insurgents” instead of mujahideen. Don't you wonder what the insurgents call themselves? Have they pledged a jihad, or holy war, to expel the newest infidel invaders?

We could make Love not war. We don’t need to lead; we can work together, cooperatively, on our increasingly smaller planet.

What would abnormal behavior of Mars in Libra look like? First start with what Mars in Libra looks like ~ charming, generous, amiable, cooperative, persuasive, entertain and be sociable, interested in new ideas, quick to seek justice where ever it is lacking, leader of others, confuse your desires and ambitions with others, lack self-reliance, need to develop ability to stand alone, lazy, and feel everyone should abide by your rules. It promotes development of observation and perception skills, clear vision, refined taste, enterprising, and idealistic being.

If we look up the reverse of those key words we get dull, tightfisted, disagreeable, uncooperative, unconvincing, annoying, hostile, close minded, unjust, loner, greedy, selfish, ambitious, dependent, follower, neglectful, blinded, cloudy vision, coarse taste, copycat, sluggish, and slothful. The only words I remotely like are realistic as the opposite of idealistic ~ but it could be cynical. And energetic instead of lazy ~ but we are fat and don't get enough exercise! Of course, learn to stand alone could morph into working cooperatively with others. Instead of telling everyone to abide by our rules, we could learn to listen and play by the groups’ rules (or even the Mason’s rules). We could make Love not war. We don’t need to lead; we can work together, cooperatively, on our increasingly smaller planet. Too bad Thomas Jefferson isn’t around to remind us to act as though the world were looking at us.

So what do you think Mars Retrograde in Libra will look like for the next 80 years? How will Truth, Justice and the American way change? What is our collective vision for the country our Masonic Founding Fathers carved out with the words “When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

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We are still in the “what if…” stages when thinking about the 2016 presidential election. As I write this in March 2015, we are 18 months away and the primaries haven’t started. Both Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush are the most prominent names in the contest at this point, but there is plenty of time for surprises. Uranus is leaving his conflict with Pluto and heading into new territory and he is the master of unexpected happenings. There are articles in various newspapers saying that the Democrats would love to find an alternative candidate to Hillary. Maybe they will. Jeb may be too “moderate” for some of the Republicans and he carries the legacy and the taint of the Bush name, which may deter the independents from choosing him.

It is tricky to analyze Hillary’s chart since there is no definitive birth time on public record. She has been quoted as giving both 8:02 am and 8:02 pm as her birth time. There is also a rumor that she once told someone that she is Leo rising. I am using the morning chart for this article. Mercury and the South Node on the Scorpio ascendant describe this confusion over her birth time. This also explains the many times she has misspoken and confused the facts about her past adventures. She has no earth and a strong water emphasis that can bend...
the truth as she sees it. Her Chiron-Venus conjunction falls in the 12th house of this chart though I think it should be in a more public house since the world knows about her Chiron-Venus problems of Bill’s many infidelities. Her connection to the USA chart is not as strong as Jeb’s.

Her transits on the day of election in 2016 put Chiron near her Moon and trine her Sun. Transiting Jupiter highlights her Neptune and is close to her progressed Moon at that time. Pluto is quincunx (150) her Saturn-Pluto conjunction and sextile her Venus. Uranus is quincunx (150) her Mercury-south Node. It looks like it will be a stressful day for her.

**Jeb Bush** has Saturn ruling his Capricorn moon and Aquarius sun. He has Virgo rising to fill in this theme of being a responsible hard worker. Pluto closely opposes his Sun to bring him into contact with people of power as he did growing up in a political family. He has a Moon-Chiron conjunction that speaks of issues at home and often is seen as the child who carries his mother’s wound. He has strong ties to the USA chart with his moon on the USA Pluto, His Sun near the USA moon and two angle connections – USA Mars on his MH and USA Neptune on his Ascendant. He has already served as governor of Florida and may be ready to step up to a higher position.

On Election Day 2016 Pluto is on his Chiron and opposite his Uranus, the Sun ruler. Mars is conjunct his Moon and Pluto square his Saturn, the traditional ruler of his Sun. He will be highly energized.

Will Hillary and Jeb be opponents? Hillary’s Saturn opposite Jeb’s Sun and conjunct his Pluto can place her as an obstacle in his path. Her Uranus sits near his MH to upset his public life. This could be a good contest.

Election Day 2016 has the Moon near Neptune so we can expect confusion, betrayal and some trickery. At this point we can only conjecture what will happen. As the great adage goes “It’s not over until the fat lady sings.” ☺️
Interview with Anne Ortelee

YOUR ID

Email: aneortelee@yahoo.com
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Your family: Oldest child of three. Born and raised in Rochester, NY. Moved to NYC, NY two weeks after College Graduation. Dad Mark was a Neurologist. Mom Donna Jean was a Nurse. Brother Marcus is a Chef. Sister Mary is a Division One Basketball coach at University of North Florida. Mom died on my Saturn return (Scorpio Venus/Saturn in the 8th house). Dad married Peggy who brought two children ~ Step Brother Ed who owns a beer distributorship and Step sister Debbie grammar school secretary. Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Aunts, Uncles and various types of grands.


Spiritual orientation – do you follow any specific practice? Do you follow any specific practice? Nope ~ it really varies. Can be listening to music. Sitting by the ocean. Meditating. Work with the Angelic realms in my astrology practice ~ every religion has angels!

What’s the worst thing and then, the best thing about you? Sedentary and out of shape. Always looking to improve.

You never tried... jumping out of a plane
You can’t refuse... macaroni and cheese.
What is playtime for you? Reading. talking. laughing and hanging out with friends.
Your animal totem? Owl. cats. dragon fly.
Your superstition? What goes around comes around... I am very careful what I put out there ~ even inadvertently. I have a fast karma kickback with my chart!
Your Chinese sign? Wood horse.
Favorite place on earth? Anything beach! My Pisces Moon sings! I swear I am part mermaid!

What would you define as an important evolutionary lesson for you in this life?
The interactive nature of the universe with us!

Your chart?
Sept 11, 1954, 6:02 pm Rochester, NY

YOUR PRACTICE

Where do you live and practice?
New York City.

How long have you been practicing – How did it start? Started Studying astrology in 1994. Reading charts in 1995. I was an astrologer in MANY past lives!). Full time practice after 9-11-2001. I started studying astrology after a brilliant reading about my recently ended 14 1/2 year relationship ~ Saturn transiting to my Ascendant. I wanted to know HOW the astrologer knew ALL THAT STUFF about my ex and our relationship by looking in a book of numbers ~ the ephemeris. After about a month of study, astrology became my consuming passion!

Your Astrology teachers?
John Marchesella (My First Astrology Teacher ~ 2½ years Basic Astrology and NCGR certification tests), Eileen McCabe (18 years and ongoing Psychological and Spiritual Astrology), Judi Vitale (3 plus years Uranian Astrology), Ronnie Dreyer (7 years and ongoing Vedic/Jyotish Astrology), Ken Kimball (Astro-Math, Eclipses, Mundane and Advanced Predictive Techniques), Wendy Ashley (Mythic Astrology) & Arielle Guttman (Venus Star Point), I studied Mythic Tarot with Pattie Canova as well as Tarot, Hermetic Cabala and Palmistry with Ellen Goldberg.


Your Astrology hero? Dave Roell (deceased) of AstroAmerica Bookstore.

What do you feel is your greatest achievement to date in your astrology career? My students. Had 27 of them attending UAC in New Orleans!

What made it possible for you to become a full time astrologer? What made it possible for you to become a full time astrologer? Two planes flying into the World Trade Center on my birthday two blocks from my office in downtown Manhattan. Made this cautious Virgo gal take a leap of faith ~ if you can go to work one day and DIE what the heck are you waiting for to do what you love fulltime?

What is the great thing and the hard thing about being an astrologer? My clients are a great thing! I love opening up a chart and helping people validate where they are in their lives. Hard is when you see a tough patch coming and you warn them about it... they appreciate it but my Pisces Moon wants to fix it!

What are your future ambitions in the field of astrology? There are a couple of books in my heart. Continuing to write my weekly weather column and radio show. Inspiring people to learn astrology. My personal thrill is at the end of a reading when a new client asks me HOW they can learn more about astrology. I think we should teach astrology in school like Math and Reading so we know how to self comfort and take ourselves and work with others. Imagine what an amazing world it would be if we all could read charts!

What inspires you to be an OPA member? I believe Astrology is incredibly important to help us evolve to be the best we can be. An organization like OPA which models what a gift Astrology can be and encourages professionalism as well as certification helps spread the word to the wider world.

Any advice for those who would like to become professional astrologers? Take the leap. Don’t wait for two planes to fly into buildings! If it is in your heart, it is in your chart! Follow your dreams!

Thank you!
OPA, The Organization for Professional Astrology, is dedicated to promoting excellence for astrologers. Incorporated on October 4, 2000 at 1:45 pm EDT in Tallahassee, Florida, OPA provides members with tools to establish or improve their astrological practice. Membership is open to aspiring and current astrologers. Benefits include subscription to the Career Astrologer and E-news, free monthly talks by top notch astrologers and members registration fees at OPA retreats and conferences. Annual dues are $60.00.

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OPAastrology.com
Astrology Day is a recent phenomenon, and what a perfect day to CELEBRATE it - when the Sun Ingresses into Aries!

From ancestral traditions, to our current times, and those coming, Astrology serves humanity understand the greater cycles of life; yet, beyond its use as an exceptional navigation tool through the river of time, Astrology reveals a crucial fact: our life on earth is part of a much larger mechanism. Today Astrology is still vilified and subject to ridicule by both the scientific body, and the many religious institutions. But we are here to bear witness to its grandeur, keep the torch burning – a simple gesture of gratitude. This year, Astrology Day occurs on a Solar Eclipse at the 29 degree of Pisces – the threshold point between oneness and individuality: a message that we are all for one, and one for all.

With (celestial) blessings and gratitude, Maurice

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Arlan Wise

I can’t remember when I didn’t know I was a Leo. Maybe I learned it from my big brother who was also a Leo. I just knew that it was part who I was/am. When my mother found and gave me my five year diary from elementary school (a red diary that had four lines for each day for five years on each page. My Mercury in Virgo loved it and faithfully wrote every day.) I saw that it had a page in the front that had basic astrology information. I saw that I had written entrees like “I really like Richie. He’s so cute!!! He’s a Sagittarius and then get along well with Leos.” I was writing about astrology as I was learning to write.

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Elizabeth Rozan

When my parents could no longer afford to pay the tuition for my Catholic education, off I went to mingle with “those who go to hell”, at the public Jr. High, for gr. 8-9, and then high school, gr. 10, 11, 12. A classmate in gr. 10, for whom I held admiration and curiosity, was one of “those who our parents warned us about”. She seemed to me to be so advanced, so swift, so with it. How is that? I asked her. My grandmother does my progressions every year, she said, just as cool and self-assured as one could ever be. I didn’t know what progressions were, all the more indication that she had knowledge that wasn’t being taught in our daily classroom. My grandmother is an astrologer, she explained. I asked her if I could meet her, as I needed to know. We arranged to visit her at her tiny cottage by the sea, and as I saw the horoscopes in her small dark living room, with all the glyphs, and geometry, and I recognized them. And I recognized her, the Slavic woman of substance, named Michaela. My path was laid before me.

---

Kim de Noüe

The story about how I was introduced to Astrology is magical. Just like everything else in life; if we are lucky enough to be paying attention, we realize it. This experience was one that I couldn’t ignore.

When I was nineteen I was reading the collected works of Carl Jung and in the process came upon an essay he wrote on the topic. I was a huge admirer of Jung, but never exposed to astrology other than through the daily horoscopes found in the local newspaper. So, seeing that a man I admired so much thought Astrology worthy of an essay, grabbed my attention and touched something in me deeply, in spite of some trepidation. Though the essay was not complex, I wanted to “really” understand every word, so decided to put an classified ad in the local paper for an astrologer to help
The Career Astrologer  OP A's Quarterly Magazine

Heiltje LeRoux

An Ode to Astrology:
Mind-Body-Spirit unite-
cast into traveling lifetimes of solidified energy
Senses to perceive outside, not Spirit hidden
Soul traveling in darkness with eyes that see but do not recognise
Timeline of incarnated Soul patiently manifest in increments of urgency

calling inner truth of personal reality-
wake up!
Lightning Flash of Spirit ignites night sky filled with Starlight to acknowledge, teach and guide.
Slowly Mind-Body-Spirit recognise yearning of hidden reality – now observable Cosmic codes reflect in rhythms of Earth and Sky
Seeking spirals that repeat, hint and manifest in stark revelation
Repetition becomes endless wheels of transformation
linking Earths’ reality below with knowledge of Lights above
that reflect-
one to the other, one to the other
Painstaking learning becomes bearable –
transformed into steps towards understanding true reality-
experienced until the point of Singularity becomes the only yearning
that is left to explore.
Mind-Body-Spirit dissolves-
merging back into Oneness of Spiritual Eternity.

Kathryn Andren

n 1999 an astrologer in Santa Fe, New Mexico looked at my chart and exclaimed enthusiastically, “YOU could be an astrolo-
ger!” “Really?” I questioned with my voice and eyebrows raised. This was the third reading I had in one year and each astrologer pre-
sented to me a different rising sign. I blew it off and thought then astrology must be a bunch of hogwash with those inconsistencies!

However, the idea was a seed that grew when I moved to Hawaii in April of 2000. For years I nurtured my early interest learning astrology by introducing transit information with clients before massage and bodywork healing sessions. Later I refined my private consulting sessions in 2003, supported by my first Saturn return.

Early on, I began creating curriculums for Interactive Astrology classes, including movement and meditation for a holistic learning experience. For over a decade I worked with my partner at the time, writing, teaching and presenting a variety of our own workshops and retreats combining energy healing bodywork with astrology. Over the years we produced monthly podcasts and astrology videos “Empowering Lives through the Mystery of the Sky”. While the Uranus Pluto square and other cardinal cross factors dissolved that partnership, my undying love for astrology remains.

Astrology permeates almost every area of my life. Observing planet patterns stimulates sexy star poems, heavenly haiku and serves as inspiration for cosmic collage artwork. Personally and professionally, the wisdom of astrology serves to create greater context and compassion for my life experience. I was so inspired by the presenters attending my first astrology conference in 2011, I decided then I could still be passionate about practicing astrology even when I am eighty years old. I was humbly reminded too that this field of study is so vast, I would always have more to learn. I am delighted and honored to continue my study and grow the practice of astrology.

me understand this article. Honestly, I knew inside that my interest would have been piqued, even if I had not had questions about the essay.

I got a response within hours of the ad publication from someone in the town where I lived. She called me and said, “Honey, when is your birthday?” I gave her my birth data over the phone and she said,

“Oh my God! Jupiter is your chart ruler and it is conjunct Uranus natally. Uranus is also transiting your natal Mercury/Neptune conjunction in the 10th house right now. You were born to be an astrologer and I am going to be your teacher. Come on over to my house and I’m going to teach you everything I know.” WOW!!! I was stunned and broke and all I could think of was how much I wanted this and how little money I had to pay her. So, I told her, “I’m a starving student and don’t have the money to pay you for that much training.” To which she responded, “That’s OK. I owe a debt to society and you’re it. Come on over to my house, you are going to be my apprentice.”

So, I went to her house every day for six months! She fed me, piled books on the table, showed me the basics and answered every question imaginable, for eight hours a day! It was amazing. When the time came to read a chart alone, I felt really unprepared to do this and I know I am going to forget about being accurate and just make up whatever came to get it right. She told me I had all the information, and now I just needed to use that knowledge to tell a story. She asked me to forget about being accurate and just make up whatever came to mind, based on what I had learned. So, I did what she said and all the things I told her ended up being TRUE. My story was very imaginative and specific; I had referred to people in her family, incidents which transpired and when these events happened. I never dreamed they would be real. So, that showed me that Astrology is not only a reflection of the energies of the universe, but that we can often tap into these more deeply when we let go of our own judg-
ment and effort. So, now before a reading I ask for the right words to flow through me. When things come to me - even if they seem absurd or far-fetched - I trust them, and they rarely fail to be true.

That was over 40 years ago and I have relentlessly pursued astrology ever since. Blessings on this community. I am so grateful for all of you!
AUBRIE De CLERK

In my late twenties, every part of my life felt like it was upside down. When I told a friend (who is 10 years and 1 day older than I am) how I was feeling, she told me to look up Saturn Return. We had never talked about astrology before and I had paid little attention to it outside of monthly horoscopes before that day. When I read about Saturn Return, I felt so relieved. I felt there was a reason for what I was experiencing, that there wasn't something wrong with me - we all go through it. Most of all it showed me how to best use the energy positively for my growth and provided hopefulness for the future. It was another 9 years before I became an astrologer, but those feelings were with me all along. I hope that my clients also feel self acceptance and hope in the unknown as we work through their transitions together.

JENNIE CHEN

My mother is my first teacher who brought me into the awareness of metaphysics which included Astrology. She is a very intuitive, lively woman. A lot of important things in my life were shaped by her influence.

Unfortunately, she was often sick so my mother took on Qigong and meditation. She then showed me how to do it. As a child who frequently needed to visit the hospital, I got to appreciate alternative medicine, Taichi exercise and Qigong at a very young age.

Whenever the family had any issue that could not be resolved, my mother would go to the temple and get some clues by drawing lots. She was very good in interpretation, using several techniques, and derived her conclusion from observation of the surrounding activities at the moments of her questioning. One of these cases I remembered to this day was the year I took the college entrance exam, which was always very competitive in China, but much more so at that time, because the government paid all the tuition and guaranteed a decent job for those who were fortunate enough to pass the entrance exam. The lot my mom drew was a poem interpreting the meaning of the chart would be able to get into college that year. And I did.

Since I was a little kid, I was always fond of books and reading. We seldom spend money on anything extra besides the basic living and meals. But my book collection was the only thing that grew more and more. To this day, the large bookcases are one of the major features in my house. My first astrology book was bought in the late eighties.

And you may ask how does all these stories relate to astrology? Well, in Chinese Astrology - Bazi, the connotation of books, my mom, learning medication/alternative medicine, are all associated with the Ten God of Resource, especially the Indirect Resource - which in my chart is Wood Element, and a very dominate force.

INNESSA WUZIK

I did not immediately start to write this story as the association is strongly with pain and isolation.

I was introduced to astrology by my father as a child. As with most of the things that interested my father, society did not value it or comprehend it, and sometimes would denounce it. So these things were kept somewhat of a secret.

But I only started investigating astrology myself when I was a student and had already left home (this is about 30 years ago). I got some ephemerides and a few books by Alan Leo and taught myself how to draw up charts and did my very best to interpret them. Unsuccessfully, it always felt to me. But I felt such a kinship and intimacy with the discipline of astrology that I kept going.

My perception of truth and relevance was closely tied up with astrology. The friends that I had at the time could not see the relevance of astrology. I experienced this as emotionally devastating and at the time I came to the conclusion that there must be a different truth for everybody. I was totally isolated and became resigned to this, I also resigned to the fact that I was different from everyone else. Although in the far back reaches of my mind there was this awareness that there were other astrologers in the world apart from me, they wrote the books that I read, and I identified well with the books.

After some years like this the isolation became too much, I packed astrology away and focused on other things in life, travelled, got married, had children.

Then about 10 years ago I left my kids at home one day and treated myself to an astrology workshop in Johannesburg. And it all came back. I left the workshop with all the cells of my body telling me, astrology is me, it is how I think and function and perceive. So I picked up astrology again.

I was less isolated on this second round for astrology. I did a correspondence diploma through the Mayo School of Astrology. I am now studying further with Maurice Fernandez.

However I am still not confident to do readings, although I do the occasional one if I am asked. I feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty in astrology, and the complexity, and my poor memory. I guess I still have work to do, a lot of assimilating, and practice, practice, practice.

KATE RUSKO

I have Aquarius in my 12th house: I have always wanted to “decode the mysteries of the universe”. I have searched and searched for a system that would answer the question of what the heck we are here for. There had be something to explain this absurd reality.

In this quest, I studied economics (I can only explain this choice by the fact that it was the 80s). I was in a highly theoretical program. Although I began with a very optimistic expectations, I soon
found myself disillusioned by an approach that allowed for no flexibility. It could only handle models where all the parameters were strictly set. My mutable nature did not resonate with this. I quickly became a thorn in my teachers’ sides as I insisted on asking questions that were beyond the parameters. My questions were NEVER answered. I skipped graduation, and put the degree they mailed to me in a drawer, and never thought about it again.

I then thought that maybe art could provide the answer, so I enrolled in a painting program. It was obviously a wonderful and expansive change of environment. However, I could not help but notice that my teachers would talk to themselves as they walked along the hallways muttering things like "I should have moved to New York" or "my work would really have been appreciated during the Renaissance" (it could very well have been all the fumes- it was the 90s and no one was very careful about toxins). Although I did pursue a painting practice for 15 years and mostly really enjoyed it, it eventually became clear, at least for myself, that art could too easily slide into simply a vanity project. Unfortunately, there is often too much ego, and too little real substance.

Unbeknownst to me, along came my Uranus opposition, and this incredible urge came over me to think differently and to do differently. I poured all this energy into my painting, and although the results were there on the canvas, I still felt empty. I was seeing a wonderful homeopath who would regularly encourage me to use the moon cycles to set my intentions, and one day I decide to look into this business myself.

Pretty soon, I became obsessed. Although I had looked to astrology hoping to find an answer to my existential questions, it turned out that astrology itself was in fact was the answer. Within a few months, I saw this astrologer Maurice interviewed and I thought he had interesting things to say so I went to his website, and when I saw that he had a course, I enrolled on the spot. It was my Charlie Brown "THAT'S IT! " moment. At that point, I had not yet had my chart read by anyone, let alone even met an astrologer. It was kind of like signing up to be a financial advisor when you had never even walked into a bank. Talk about putting the cart before the horse. But that's what happens when Mars in Sag squares your nodes from the 9th. Luckily, this time the archer hit the bullseye.

Astrology provides a system that allows for a perfect balance of inspiration and perspiration. The perspiration is the result of all those deeply nuanced symbols and archetypes, and the delirious and terrifying process of synthesis. The inspiration is what breathes a unique and challenging essence into each chart and each path. What I admire most about it is that you cannot own it: the parameters are constantly changing. And once you grasp Neptune, you can only be forever humbled.

So I finally have my "system" and I get a secret satisfaction these days when anyone tells me that they don't believe that astrology works. I just think to myself "it doesn't matter if you believe it or not- it's working anyway."

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LUTIA LAUSANNE (winner)

Ode to Mosaic Tortoise and Flaming Torch
(with a nod to Keats' Ode to a Grecian Urn)

You sure Mandala of quietness
Move as slow and steady as time
Carry star shine deep within your breast
Abandoning what will not grow, seeking what you know
you'll find.

What time-tipped tale is told in your steady wake
Of bulls, maidens, nimble goats
With ram, lion, centaur ready
What say the twins, the beauty, the electric air
What burst of bees, what sting of death
what plunging leviathan
Drum all to your slow, steady beat of ecstasy
Among them like a passing torch, rhythm is heard
Swift as the stolen flame, stolen once more
This time passing to the sacred soul, enderead
Pipes and bells
and animal roar
Between Flame
and Tortoise
the wide cosmos heaves
And dancing feet
are everywhere
While claw and hoof drum and tiny tails twitch
The goal to enter, stay, grow, then leave
Taking with us a savoured kiss
For we will love both steady and headlong
This Mosaic Mandala we share

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From all entries, a winner was randomly drawn to receive a 1 year OPA membership!

CONGRATULATIONS Lutia Lausanne!
MAURICE FERNANDEZ

When I first lay my hand on the family library book: “Your Child is a Scorpio,” I realized this book knew more about me, my internal motivations and dilemmas, than anyone else around me. Later on, at the time of my first Nodal Return, a friend suggested that we take an astrology class. It was a great surprise that we could actually learn astrology! From this 3 week class, to further exploration on the subject, I found myself travelling the world to access more teachings. I had a spiritual awakening at age 22 that had me put everything else aside and focus on this path. Astrology provided the perspective on life that transformed all my identity crises into great order and clarity. Life finally made sense.

Growing Pains

By Kathryn Andren

Growing Pains by Alex Trentovveth

This book is dedicated to the astrology of adolescence. It answers questions for educators and parents how to best support children during school years. Growing Pains addresses issues of learning style, communication and discipline through the lens of the social planets, Jupiter and Saturn.

The author asserts throughout the book how valuable understanding astrology can be for supporting a child’s growth and development. What drives these children? How do pupils learn when they have specific planet patterns? There is a focus on transits, viewing Jupiter cycles as opportunity for growth with reminders how Saturn then supports discipline and refinement.

Growing Pains is neatly structured so the reader knows what to expect. Each chapter begins by examining in depth Jupiter or Saturn through one sign. This signature is then further refined by exploring the ruling planet through each of the twelve Zodiac signs. Finally, at the end of each chapter, the author uses celebrity charts as case studies to illuminate how social planet transits correlate to transition points over a lifetime for well known people.

The author is clearly passionate about supporting children make the most of their lives. Readers receive suggestions how to be a better parent or teacher based on the aspects in their own chart. Growing Pains gives readers empowering suggestions to consciously encourage the growth and development of the adolescents in their lives.

www.kathrynandren.com

The clouds wont stop you
Our ignorance wont matter
Flicker, twinkle on
Prophecies will unfold
Karma in control
Consciousness spirals on
Universal clock ticks, inhale, exhale
a moment, a season, an Age
My life has a span, vincible I am
Can I find true freedom
Be who I am
Release the grip of my chart?
Transcend my own soul
This moment of birth
The first cry of existence
It trails through a whole lifetime
The clouds can’t hide you
Our ignorance won’t phase you
Flicker, twinkle on…
OPA – The Professional Practice of Astrology

A WORKSHOP SERIES OFFERED BY OPA  The Organization for Professional Astrology (OPA) is proud to offer this very unique and inspiring series of presentations at Kepler College. More than ever before in our recent times, the profession of Astrology is gaining traction as more people transition from using astrology as a hobby, to making it a part time or full time occupation. Practitioners hear the calling to follow their true professional purpose, however, launching and maintaining a successful practice is a complex effort. This series of presentations is tailored to offer essential tools and a wide perspective on what it takes to make it, and the variety of options that exist. These presentations are part of a forthcoming book to be published by OPA in the Fall of 2015.

Eight Saturdays, from May 2 to June 20, 2015
9am to 11am, Pacific Coast Time

May 2, 2015 - Donna Young - Different Orientations and Uses in the Practice of Astrology  To practice astrology successfully, one needs to familiarize with the wide variety of uses for astrology. From the different schools of thoughts, to the different services that Astrology offers.

May 9, 2015 - Sandra Leigh - Consultations, Counseling and Ethics  Sandra Leigh will cover the many practical aspects of regulating and maintaining a successful practice. She will discuss how to best manage consultations, from the practical aspects to the more psychological insights, and bring up different ethical considerations.

May 16, 2015 - Chris McRae - The Financial Equation in the Practice of Astrology  The financial equation is what can make or break it! How to transition from studying astrology to making a satisfying income. Advice we all can learn from, from someone who is herself a prominent figure in the community of Astrologers.

May 23, 2015 - Wendy Stacey - An Astrology Consultant in an Ever Changing Society  Wendy will discuss how changes within society have influenced astrological consultancy in recent times and how in the ever-changing society we live in, might continue to do. Wendy will highlight how the demands of clients today have changed, and also how we can adapt and use technology to our advantage, among other things.

May 30, 2015 - Maurice Fernandez - Creating and Sustaining a Successful Practice - A Practical and Spiritual Guide  Astrology practice should not be limited to being a retirement plan or a hobby – it is a profession for our future, for the service of humanity, particularly in these intense transitional times. Maurice will discuss both the practical considerations and the spiritual perspective necessary to lead a successful practice. Astrologers can be considered modern priests whose role to interpret coded celestial messages is a task that commands reverence and purity of thought.

June 6, 2015 - Frank Clifford - In Print: A Practical Guide for Writers in Astrology  Frank, a prolific writer in the field of astrology and palmistry, will discuss the various ways of getting your work published, and offer advice about approaching magazines and publishers. He will provide important tips on how to communicate your ideas, whether it’s for a proposal or promotional material or for writing an article or book chapter.

June 13, 2015 - Kay Taylor - The Evolution of Excellence: Professional Development and the Community of Astrologers  Kay will discuss the development of the culture of astrology, including how the environment has evolved over the century, and how the community of astrology functions today especially in terms of the support of various astrological organizations. She will discuss how self-employed astrologers might navigate the community and find their place in this greater context.

June 20, 2015 - Georgia Stathis - Making your Professional Practice Financially Viable  Georgia will address in this presentation what many astrologers, who prefer to contemplate celestial matters, tend to shy away from, but nonetheless must know about. She will talk about the different business models, legal and tax matters, and about basic principles earning, investing, and spending, essential to healthy and productive function of the astrologer’s practice.

Follow your calling, we are here to help you make it!

$200 for all presentations
$180 for OPA members
$29 for single presentations
$25 for OPA members

To find out more about OPA: www.opaastrology.org
To find out more about Kepler College, and register for the presentations: www.kepler.edu | info@kepler.edu
INSIDE THE READING

We’ve discussed attracting the right clients, preparing for your readings, and taking notes during the session but in this article I want to discuss the astrologer/client dynamic. Even if you only meet with a person one time, they come into the session having questions they want answered and believing that you know a great deal about them and their future. By comparison, what they know about you is limited; it comes from your website, or maybe the experience of a friend. It’s certainly more focused on what you do, not who you are.

Be sensitive to the power dynamic that exists in every session. Whether conscious or unconscious, the client is likely to be influenced by everything you say. Be conscious of your role, whether you position yourself as an advisor, seer, or coach.

To minimize projection and idealization, there are four skills that I use regularly in my client work: listening, empathy, discussion, and specific language. One of the first skills we need to develop in our sessions is that of listening. I remember some years ago during a track at an OPA conference when we broke into small groups and practiced a skill called active listening. This was simply to reflect back what you were hearing. When someone acknowledges your experience it creates a bond and keeps the conversation open. For example:

Client: “I’m really worried about my marriage. My husband seems preoccupied and distant. Do you think he’s having an affair?”

Astrologer: “So your husband’s preoccupation makes you worry that he’s cheating on you? Can you say more about why you think that?”

Rather than rushing to answer the question you can build a bond with the client and gather more information about her reality. By making the time for her to give voice to her fears in more detail she will also experience some relief. Listening can slow down the pace of the reading and allow you to work more deeply with each individual person.

No matter how closely you listen, if you can’t empathize with someone they might not feel heard. Using empathy means that you work to let the client know you understand or can relate to their experience in some way. Even though you will have clients whose lives might range outside of your experience, maybe they own a pet sitting business and you’re allergic to animals, or they run a multinational corporation, you can find something to let them know you care; we’re all part of the same human family.

Many times after I introduce an upcoming transit I will ask the person how they see that influence in their lives right now. Also, I will look for the last major transit of the same planet and try to start a discussion about what was happening or what they were learning during that period of time. Discussion helps the astrologer be more accurate by gathering information from the client, but also makes the client an integral part of the reading. We deliver information about a chart or a cycle, but it is the clients who can help us make it relevant to their individual lives. Much of my understanding of certain transits or even natal aspects has come from listening to clients and from our discussions.

Language is ever important in a reading. It’s important to speak in the language of possibilities. Being too specific or certain about the future puts the astrologer into the authority role. This can create feelings of powerlessness in the client. I like to outline a range of potentials for each major transit and make it clear that most people experience a little bit of everything. For example while Uranus transits can bring upsets and unpredictability often there will be some experience of freedom as well. Saturn can create delays and lessons but is one of our greatest teachers.

Many years ago I developed what I call ‘coping strategies’ for each planet. So if Saturn is creating hardship, I might suggest breaking down goals into tiny baby steps. Or if Neptune brings with it feelings of being overwhelmed, I might suggest finding ways to connect with nature or spirit. Understanding a particular transit is helpful to everyone, but connecting some coping strategies to each one gives people more tools.

As astrologers we have so much to offer our clients. It’s important that they feel understood and informed during their time with us.
The 2015 Pisces Solar Eclipse is part of Saros Series 17 South. According to B. Brady, the issues in this particular cycle can reflect sudden success in group projects or personal relationship matters. The Sun/Moon is separating from a sesquiquadrate aspect to Jupiter in Leo and is applying to a trine with Saturn in Sagittarius. These aspects can be said to contribute to an opportunity to form a global rather than individual focus. It is not just about individual success expanding, but about global survival for all.

On the cautionary side, Mars/Neptune midpoint of the Eclipse chart is less than 30 minutes from exact to the Sun and Moon conjunction suggesting possible problems with infection as one meaning. Will it take a health crisis to bring humanity together, working together to solve a mutual medical problem, like Ebola, across geopolitical boundaries? (Review the Astrologers’ discussion of the year 2015 in the Winter Career Astrologer)

Moving towards the Aries Equinox a theme is still subtly nudging humanity. In my previous two discussions about the Libra Equinox Chart and the Capricorn Solstice Chart, I noted that both charts had a Balsamic Sun/Moon Phase. In the Balsamic dark of the moon phase the movement is going within to contemplate that which has gone before, the traditional answers to life, before moving forward into a new era where a different vision with fresh possibilities may emerge and be seeded in a New Moon.

On March 20, 2015, thirteen hours before the Sun reaches zero Aries, there is a solar eclipse at 29 degrees 27 minutes Pisces. The last degrees of any sign signify a conclusion, an end of what was familiar, comfortable or known. A life description or theme defined by the particular sign needs to be discerned and carried forward as new information. Some astrologers believe that when the New Moon is at the very end of a sign, the initiation of new light is more difficult given the weight of all that is being carried forward.

At the Balsamic Moon Phase a lunar eclipse at 29 degrees 27 minutes Pisces, a journey through the Signs of the Zodiac is completed. Both movements signify a moment where humanity is on the edge of a turning point, something new out of what was is trying to be manifest. This process has been manifesting for several months.

The Aries Equinox chart moves forward with the New Moon Phase unfolding in Aries with a wide conjunction to Uranus in a wide conjunction with Mars. One might conclude that the “aftershocks” of the Mars/Uranus conjunction squaring Pluto on March 12 may still be reverberating. As this is being written in February 2015 ISIS continues to terrorize the world with beheadings. More than likely ISIS will to be a major topic in this Equinox season as will additional funding for Homeland Security in the USA.

In personal and global matters discernment is still needed to determine when an immediate, instinctual response is appropriate and when a more considered, thoughtful, compassionate action is called for.

The Aries Moon and Uranus opposed the North Node emphasizes the tension in relationships, especially when trying to determine whether fiery action and arms or diplomatic words and understanding will prevail. Unfortunately the weight is with the South Node suggesting that old patterns of solutions may win out.

In the 13 hours between the Eclipse and the Aries Equinox, the Moon in Aries moves into a semi-sixthile to Neptune. Wherever this aspect occurs in your natal chart it is an invitation this season to ask yourself what experiences (note the house placements) support courageous, fresh reactions or emotional responses with compassionate, unifying purposes to co-create with Source. The Moon is opposed and Neptune is quincunx the North Node in

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**Themes of the Season**

- Solar Eclipse, 29 Pisces 27
  (March 20, 2015, 9:36:08 am UT)
- Aries Equinox Zero Aries
  (March 20, 2015, 10:47 pm UT)
- Jupiter in Leo, Stationary Direct
  April 8, 2015 (12 Leo)
- Pluto in Capricorn, Stationary Retrograde
  April 17, 2015 (15 Capricorn)
- Saturn in Sagittarius Sesquiquadrate Uranus in
  Aries - May 4, 2015, (3 Sagittarius/18Aries)
- Mercury in Gemini, Stationary Retrograde
  May 19, 2015 (13 Gemini)
- Jupiter in Leo Quincunx Pluto in Capricorn
  May 21, 2015 (15Leo/Capricorn)
- Mercury in Gemini, Stationary Direct
  June 11, 2015 (4 Gemini)
- Neptune in Pisces, Stationary Retrograde
  June 12, 2015 (9 Pisces)
- Saturn retrogrades back into Scorpio
  June 15, 2015
- Saturn in Scorpio Semi-Square Pluto in
  Capricorn - June 20, 2015 (29 Scorpio/14 Capricorn)
Libra creating an Irritation Triangle nagging us into “right relationship,” melding the differences between us into a harmonious cooperation.

Saturn, newly in Sagittarius, trines the Moon and squares Neptune. Perhaps these energies signal humanity’s desire and readiness for more evolved structures or instruments of diplomacy to bring us together, but confusion still reigns in the implementation.

Saturn quincunx Venus in Taurus, ruler of the North Node in Libra, points the way to a “down to earth,” common sense attitude toward global issues. Indeed diplomatic power (Libra) with its formalities and politics may not be as relevant as the simple attention to survival on Earth (Taurus). An attitude adjustment is being called for.

The creation of an attitude adjustment is called for also in the Yod configuration created by Neptune’s conjunction with Mercury’s in a quincunx to the North Node in Libra and Jupiter in Leo which are sextile to each other. This is a pattern in the Pisces Eclipse Chart also.

Yes, these energies can signify deception and unclear thinking, but hopefully an inspired sense of relationship philosophy, inclusive beyond the usual geopolitical and biophysical boundaries, may be trying to be seeded. For instance, internet stories are continually pointing to how untamed creatures from the animal kingdom try to connect with humans. I like to believe that these creatures are trying to help us with important information in these times, if only the necessity for compassion.

Saturn in Sagittarius is sesquiquadrate Uranus in Aries on May 4, slowing down the Uranus drive to be free of Pluto’s hold. It is a reminder not to throw out everything in the drive to be inventive and innovative. Some forms and structures are needed.

Mercury goes retrograde in the Sign of Gemini beginning on May 19 at 13 degrees traveling to 4 degrees on June 11, 2015 before turning direct. The retrogrades in Air Signs this year remind us to be thoughtful and considered in our choice of words. In Gemini we need to be particularly sensitive to the information we deem as true and the information we pass on in conversation. Check out the houses affected by the retrograde to determine what experiences or subjects might need particular attention and thoughtfulness during this retrograde.
Transits of the Season

29 to 28 degrees Scorpio until September 18. Saturn will be making a return visit activating the degrees to ascertain if all the unconscious underpinnings brought forward by the actions of change and transformation have been addressed before moving into Sagittarius on a more permanent basis. The hard work of assimilating and incorporating the changes we have perceived are needed after the shaking up and altering energies of Uranus and Pluto begins.

Pluto in Capricorn and Saturn in Scorpio will again be in mutual reception so the review will be thorough. Cleaning out and restructuring will be called for. Get the dust cloths ready. Saturn semi-square Pluto on June 20, 2015 brings us to a conclusion of this spring cleaning season before entering into the Summer Solstice.

The primary themes for Aries Equinox emphasize that changes still need to be addressed with adjustments in our thinking and actions forthcoming. Big questions, transpersonal questions, need to be asked. Adjustments are not a choice, but a necessity. Care with the information we use to answer such questions needs to be taken. This can be a exciting time of possibilities with innovative answers for the future of the Earth if we allow new communication to be heard and discernment to be honed. May it be so.

Notes and References


Jacqueline Janes, MA, LPC is a Certified Counseling Astrologer, NCGR IV, is recognized by ISAR as a Certified Astrological Professional. Additionally, she is a licensed professional counselor in Connecticut. Jacqueline has combined astrological consultation with psychotherapy. She has lectured about and taught astrological concepts for all levels and led workshops in spiritual development.

Book Review

By Arlan Wise

THE ASTROLOGY CODE - Statistical Evidence of Universal Design

By Michael Bergen

Michael Bergen has written a readable statistical analysis of astrology. He is well suited to do this having a BA in Applied math and a MA in Math education. It took him six years of research to produce this book. His love of astrology motivated him to put in the time and effort necessary for a work of this stature.

Michael used 15,000 birth charts that he purchased from Lois Rodden, the queen of accurate data. He chose to use 80 study groups (i.e., military, writers, criminal careers, inheritance, astrologers, etc.). He used two types of statistical analysis. One compares actual results to expected values to find dominant signs and planets in each study group. The other method calculates the odds of all numerical probabilities and came up with 70 findings that have odds about 1 in 1,000. One does not have to know math to appreciate this book. The findings are color-coded and easy to read.

The book starts with a section on the basics of astrology and a summary of what Michael found. His descriptions are clear and precise. The bulk of the book is the outcomes seen in studying the various study groups. You can pick and choose which ones to read and spend endless hours pondering over these results. To give you an idea of some of the 80 groups, there are studies on adopted children; corporate tycoons, lifespans—short and long; obesity; sex workers, writers. The results are not always what you would expect.

Some of Michael’s findings are surprising. To name a few:

Libra and Aquarius should have their meanings reversed.

Virgo is strongly associated with sexuality and difficult life circumstances. Venus expresses its positive attributes best when retrograde and it’s negative attributes most when direct.

Neptune is much more connected with personal endeavors than with spirituality.

He corroborates Gauquelin’s Doctrine of Angularity in finding that planets have a strong influence when on the four axis points.

This book rivals the study Gauquelin did in 1955. Michael matches it in thoroughness and importance as a study of astrology.

The wow! factor for me was in investigating Michael’s insistence on the importance of the Navamsha - the 9th harmonic chart. I was familiar with this from studying Vedic astrology but had never applied it to the western chart. Michael feels that the Navamsha represents the inner self, that it is equal to the natal chart and he uses both charts in his study. I calculated my western Navamsha and was impressed by what I saw. Try it and you’ll see that you have another chart that is equally descriptive as your natal chart.

The Astrology Code is a book that every professional astrologer wants to have on his or her bookshelf. It is also fun and gives you hour upon hour of astrological pleasure as it stimulates your thinking. You don’t have to agree with all the findings, but it opens your mind to read them.

Michael is still not done with his studies, having already revised the book since its publication in 2014. He continues to expand the scope of his work, continually check the accuracy of the book, and he plans to do more comprehensive work on predictive and mundane techniques.

Thank you, Michael, for doing the work and writing this book. I give it 5 stars and urge you to buy it.

OPA Has a New Website and URL!

Visit us online at OPAastrology.org
Interview with Michael Bergen

1. What is your childhood background? I grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. ('Saturday Night Fever' was filmed on my block.) I was talented at sports, especially soccer. At 16, I represented the New York State Olympic team in a game against the Canadian National Team. At 32, I went to Brooklyn College to gain a Masters Degree in Math Education in order to become a teacher.

2. What is your religious/parental background? I was raised by atheist parents. My mother was an accountant of Jewish background. My father was a social worker of Mennonite background.

3. Do you have a family? I met and fell in love with my wife in 1992, who was my first girlfriend. We have two girls, aged 5 & 6, who I have been home with since birth.

4. What is your spiritual orientation? Being faithful of God's presence, Taoism

5. What is the best thing about you? Kindness, sense of humor, loyalty

6. What is the worst thing about you? Overly independent (in thought and action), overly dependent (in relationships)

7. What is your evolutionary lesson in this life? To be more sensitive to others and less self-absorbed

8. What is your appearance? appear very laid-back and have a monotone voice.

9. What are your favorite places on Earth? NYC, Amsterdam

10. What is your favorite book? The Impersonal Life, by Anonymous

11. Do you have hobbies? I love Electronic music, Visionary art, being in parks, and watching soccer.

12. What is the best thing about being an astrologer? The incredible amount of information gained about people and life. My self-awareness and awareness of the divine are greatly improved by astrological knowledge.

13. What is the worst thing about being an astrologer? The social stigma. It is difficult to casually mention being an astrologer. People have very mixed reactions and I usually don't feel like getting into a big discussion and risk being judged.

14. Can you tell us about your educational experiences? I went to Brooklyn Technical H.S., where I took two years of college Chemistry. At Brown University, I double majored in Applied Math & Economics, with the intention of pursuing a career on Wall Street. At 32, I went to Brooklyn College to gain a Masters Degree in Math Education in order to become a teacher.

15. How long have you been practicing astrology? How did it start? In 1993, I befriended a man in a NYC museum who introduced me to astrology. I completely fell in love with it and felt that astrology was my destined career path.

16. How did you learn astrology? I read many, many books to learn how to calculate charts by hand and interpret them. After I graduated from college in 1994, I met with a teacher, John Somozu, once a week for about 9 months. He introduced me to NCGR, through which I attended many classes and workshops. I then studied Vedic astrology, which led to a pursuit of higher wisdom due to its relation with the Vedic scriptures. Astrology became a background interest for about ten years, as I read just about every book that I thought could increase my understanding of life. Inwardly, however, I still fantasized about becoming an astrologer.

17. What led to your renewed focus on astrology? In my early 30s, when I was working as a high school math teacher, I started to experiment with the use of 9th harmonic charts in the Tropical Zodiac. Eventually, I became totally convinced of its accuracy. I wasn't even looking at the 1st harmonic chart at the time and my investigations only included 9th harmonic signs placements and aspects.

18. What inspired you to write your book “The Astrology Code”? I felt that I had made some very important discoveries and wanted to share them with the world. I knew that I wouldn't be taken seriously unless I somehow ‘proved’ it to people. In early 2008, while waiting for my first daughter to be born, I bought Lois Rodden's AstroDatabank software and started putting study groups together. After seeing the results of the 9th harmonic studies, I decided to expand the research into every technique that the software could enable me to do. I am very fortunate that the SolarFire and JigSaw programs exist and are so well integrated. This made statistical analysis much easier.

19. In your book, there are many new ideas presented about astrology? How did you come to your conclusions? Most of the conclusions, such as the reversal of meanings between Libra and Aquarius, were the result of statistical evidence. I did not anticipate these results at all. The development of structural models of the planets, zodiac, elements, and quadrants came through years of contemplation. I had many moments of inspiration, but also times of doubt and revision.

20. What challenges did you encounter while researching and writing the book? Every technique I studied required decisions to be made, such as aspect orbs. What I show in "The Astrology Code" is the method I found to give the most meaning, even if it is inconsistent with conventional definitions. I then had to figure out how to best present the findings through charts, diagrams, and tables. Another challenge was designing the book. I couldn't find anyone I wanted to do it and had to learn to do everything myself, using InDesign and Photoshop. This was a blessing in disguise since it allowed me to rethink and revise it at will, which I did countless times.

21. How do you view your future? What do you see happening in your life going forward? I am currently doing research into predictive, mundane and relationship astrology techniques. I hope to publish these results in the next 3 to 5 years. I would be excited to work with others on projects such as creating written reports, course materials, research projects, and, of course, teaching.

22. How do you view the future of astrology in our culture? In the long term, I see astrology becoming totally integrated with our culture. It will instigate a greater sense of unity with our divine source and each other. Astrology serves as a gateway into spiritual inquiry since it is applicable to the practical aspects of our lives yet indicates to us that universal intelligence is very real. However, for astrology to ever be totally accepted by modern, intelligent people, it needs to be shown how and why it works. Each technique must make conceptual sense and be supported by findings. As this happens, people will increasingly demand that astrologers are educated on the best research and utilize its findings, just like medical practitioners.

Thank you!
PART ONE

What do Ramana Maharshi, Krishnamurti, Rudolph Steiner, George Gurdjieff, Osho, Deepak Chopra, Byron Katie, Ranier M. Rilke, Eckhart Tolle, Nisargadatt, Ken Wilber, Alan Watts, Ammachi, Gangaji, Dalai Lama, Walt Whitman, Johann Goethe, and Yogananda all have in common?

They have, to a greater or lesser degree, awakened from the dream of mechanical unconscious life and, in their way of being in the world, imparted an energy of pure presence that raises us up.

As astrologers and eager students of the Mystery in action, we might inquire:

What predisposes a person to awaken to the their true nature beyond the mechanical presence that raises us up?

And, if such a transformation in someone takes place by whatever force, what creates the inner and outer environment that allows their awakening to impact the world?

How will the impact manifest according to their unique dispositions and role, as a teacher, artist, or as a collective leader?

Can astrology with its masterful, archetypal language identify patterns that suggest an awakening spirit and one who will further impact the collective?

The series of articles to follow in the OPA journal during the next year will take a friendly and deeply curious look at these lively questions. In so doing, perhaps we will further enlighten ourselves as to the myriad forms of awakening available in a human incarnation (presuming for now that there is a something that incarnates).

This investigation may also clue us in as to how the various elements of our astrological language can manifest at increasingly higher levels of expression or frequency, similar to the 3 Gunas in Vedic lore: tamas, rajas, sattva. Each of the planetary and sign archetypes are available for interpretation and influence at a spectrum of levels from dense shadow, to everyday gift, to siddhi.

Before starting with Ramana Maharshi, I’ll share my personal biases in regard to this overarching theme of awakening and spiritual impact:

1. It is not possible to know the evolutionary state of a soul from a chart (maybe someone can do it – perhaps with intuitive wizardry – but, I cannot and everyone I know cannot. If such is your expertise contact me or Maurice immediately because we have business for you!) Given this bias, then it must be true that two infants born with exactly the same birth chart will manifest their lives in utterly unique ways. And, it is also true there are predispositions that incline one to be a seeker of truth, a longer for the Divine, or an unwitting recipient of illuminating Divine Whacks.

2. Whatever the configurations, all ‘charts’ (aka people) are available for evolution and profound transformation.

3. The predispositions to ‘seeking’ and to being transformed can often, but not always, be seen in a chart. Anyone with major spiritual impact – that is, who raises the consciousness of many individuals to increasing higher level of pure witnessing – nearly always has astrological factors that are observable, ie., the influence of the transpersonal planets on personal planets and key angles.

4. There is no standard behavioral code or standard of personality that fits for the awakened condition! Being nice, communicative, powerful, of high endurance, artful, of pointed intelligence, and competent --- not. The consistent theme, independent of these virtues that exists among the awakened, is that of the witnessing Presence dictating the response to Life rather than the body functions or the discursive mind. Outside of that, it is all fair game.

5. I am using the modern Western tropical astrology lens. Traditional astrology and Vedic astrology with its many divisional charts (both not using the outer transpersonal planets) can come to similar results. My bias is that clarity depends more upon the consciousness of the ‘Seer’, and less upon the lens.

It is edifying to note our biases as we meander through life. Concluding this section a relevant quote from Sri Yukteswar, Yogananda’s guru and noted Vedic astrologer and Seer:

“A child is born on that day and at that hour when the celestial rays are in mathematical harmony with his individual karma. His horoscope is a challenging portrait, revealing his unalterable past and its probable future results. But, the natal chart can be rightly interpreted only by men of intuitive wisdom: these are few.”

With that encouraging remark, we embark on today’s revels by going to the top of the spiritual food chain with one of the most influential and uncontest spiritual influences since the beginning of the 20th Century – Ramana Maharshi.

Ramana, in keeping with the non-dual invitation to abandon the seeker (yet with resolute discipline to do just that!), had no real system, practices, nor a large infrastructure to his silent teaching.

Still his influence has transmitted across all continents and kinds of people – from lay seekers to notable psychological authorities such as Carl Jung who considered him a Master and modern day saint.

A caveat here before exploring his chart: it was suggested by a powerful OPA force that I bring a certain warm-spirited, if occasionally subversive, wit to my offerings here as the aforementioned person has come to expect, and occasionally enjoy (or at least tolerate) that from me.

When it comes to Ramana, who represents a quintessential purity, I wondered
what's there to kid about? He's a really lousy subject for wit. I could certainly tease out a few errant remarks on the current Advaita Non-Dual-speak in some circles, but that would deviate us...

Then I concluded that Ramana, of all people, would be fine with a little mischief for not standing on precious ceremony or overdone holy affectations. So, I thank him on his astral mountain in advance for his loving allowances.

THE CHART OF A SUPREMLY LIBERATED BEING

Ramana Maharshi (Venkatamaran Iyer) was born December 30, 1879 at 1:00 A.M. in the southern Indian province of Tamil Nadu (Madurai). He shuffled off his mortal coil in 1950.

At age 16, when Saturn was transiting his Ascendant in Libra, he experienced a full-bodied terror of death which led to a fierce and uncompromised inquiry into the nature of being. From that gripping collision with the Infinite he experienced a spontaneous liberation of the Self from conditioned existence. In addition to his birth chart, I have included a chart for the recorded day of his awakening experience to see how it plays into the planetary positions in his young life.

As a boy he was said to be bright, athletic, and not particularly interested in school but good enough to do well. Would his chart have predicted his transcendent awakening? Not necessarily, though it could point to the potential and to the level of impact his liberation would generate. For beings of unusual impact, and/or inspiration, one would expect to find a transpersonal influence from the outer planets Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto on the personal planets — and with Ramana, that is the case.

His Sun in serious, persevering, Capricorn is trined by Neptune/Taurus which lends an imaginative and/or universal disposition within a grounded perspective. That Sun is also trined by Mars in conjunction to Neptune/Taurus adding to the already persevering nature. Such a configuration is also found in gifted athletes. But — soccer for Ramana? Apparently, his soul had other callings. Neptune inspires his Mars to drive towards the spiritual. And then, the entire kaboodle is trined by Uranus/Virgo which adds a probability for sudden insight and spiritual genius to all the elements. And hazzai, we have a double Grand Earth Trine involving transpersonal Uranus and Neptune.

Venus is in Scorpio. The love nature is likely to be passionate, and drawn to deep and intense exploration of its subject. In such an evolved soul, it showed itself in a passionate love of the Self.

Pluto, the lord of death and rebirth, and a transformational catalyst, is in direct opposition from its home 8th house to Venus in the 2nd infusing his nature and life with the urge for rebirth in transformed love. The Pluto signature makes his presence even more uniquely compelling and powerful given the already turbocharged Grand Earth Trine. Pluto in Taurus in the archetypal Scorpio 8th house generally means business.

All the Taurus elements, practically speaking, endowed Ramana with a curiously powerful gift of ‘staying put’ — as he did on his beloved Arunachala mountain all his life. On July 17, 1896, it is written that Ramana underwent the notorious death and rebirth ‘experience’.

The Chart of a Supremeely Liberated Being

Spiritual Impact

The focus of the ‘event’ is on natal Mars, Mercury and Venus. On that day, Saturn/Scorpio is opposing Mars/Neptune/Taurus, and squaring Jupiter/Leo. Saturn trines natal Jupiter/Pisces and also NNode/Cancer. Pluto and Neptune are conjunct in Gemini opposing Mercury, which is favorably trined by Jupiter Leo. Uranus is on natal Venus and opposing natal Pluto.

If this were an American football game, there would be time-outs every 20 seconds to put a halt on the intense action to regroup. If it were a film in the tradition of Nicholson/Keaton, it would be titled “Something’s Gotta Give”.

The significance of this transiting theater is for a separate exploration and article. The key thing is to see the irrevocable imperative for transformation, in this moment, for a 16 year old. It is not business as usual.

Given the strength of his natal chart, the process of inner alchemy, facilitated by the outer planetary influence, prompted the ultimate spiritual inquiry (higher octaves of Mercury and Mars) to its conclusion. All aspects of self, self-valuation (Venus) and of the discursive mind for an evolved soul, are up for re-formation, death and rebirth to a higher octave in such a transit. Could have this absolute awakening been predicted abso-
Absolutely? Beyond my pay grade to say. But with these transits, it was something like publish or perish. He, or some version of ‘he’ published.

His Libra Ascendant, ruled by Venus represents an equanimous user interface that channeled to the world the powerful personal and transcendent energies in his nature, and lent an agreeable quality to his demeanor. Speaking further to the accessible quality of his nature, his nurturing **Moon in Cancer** conjuncts the **South Node** suggesting prior lifetimes of care, and renders his personal style warm and attractively empathetic.

The **Moon** is conjunct the **Midheaven**, showing that the public would perceive him in a warm, sympathetic way. In keeping with the **Cancer Moon**, he loved animals and plants – a photo shows him with a baby leopard. With his earth and water elements, we would expect a Master who was also grounded, embodied and agreeably human. **Venus/Scorpio** plays in again to the themes of love and balance with a benefic trine to the **Cancer Moon**. Such a configuration between **Venus** and **Moon** indicates well integrated feminine aspects, and someone for whom the love impulse would naturally find a way to express – someone who would be, by nature, a soft balm to others for body and soul. He may also have had artful qualities that I am not aware of. **Moon** squares the **Ascendant** – and I sense that his affections by nature were often at odds to his personal equanimity, but only prior to liberation.

Ramana loved silence, and while he would seem to be relational (**Neptune/Mars/Chiron in 7th**) he, on some occasions, was inclined to vacate his entire retreat location (accommodating thousands of visitors) for the forest. Mars/Neptune in the 7th might not be the best for easily shared marriage revels, so better to marry the Divine who does not engage in argument (at least in the usual format).

**Saturn in Aries** trines **Mercury in Sagittarius**, and Ramana’s thinking was expansive, yet also structured and focused on the essential. This combination would be good for a scientist or architect who can sustain penetrating thought, or overarching design, over time. This tendency seems to reflect his approach of **Self-Inquiry**. He maintained that this inquiry was beyond being a discursive intellectual exercise, but rather a full immersion into total being. Rounding out the warm mysticism in the chart is **Jupiter is in Pisces**, a particularly benevolent, goodwilled and univeral placement for Jupiter, in the 5th house of creative expression, and making a friendly sextile to the **Sun** and to **Neptune**. **Uranus/Virgo** is in direct opposition to **Jupiter** from the collective 11th house, yet again infusing his nature with a transpersonal element, a genius for spiritual inquiry, and for out-of-the-box, or, more to the significance, out-of-this-world benevolence.

All the elements of Ramana’s chart suggest the possibility of a practical, persevering, nature-loving, embodied being gifted with a penetrating mind and gentle, warm acceptance of others. Beyond these aspects of personality, there was the affinity for experience of higher realms, also evidenced in the chart.

The radical awakening that alchemized within him, rendered imperative by the transpersonal elements so active in his chart and the demanding outer planet transits, made the man and the mystic universally aware and also universally beloved. How, in the soul’s kitchen, such a transformation takes place, is a question for which I humbly accept my pay grade and refer to the Mystery itself to answer.

William Sebrans is a practicing astrologer and ‘Duende’ Coach living near Grass Valley, California.

He integrates the Human Design System and the Gurdjieffian Enneagram based on planetary types into his approach of distilling out the best version of oneself.

William had been an active student in the Gurdjieff work for 25 years, experiencing all manner of revels, spiritual conundrum, lofty education, and interior surprise.

He ran a high technology executive search firm in the San Francisco Bay Area, and was among the first wave of coaches trained in the 1990’s. He is an accomplished classical and improvisatory guitarist. William loves raspberries, art, beauty, ridgewalking, extreme ping pong, and golden retrievers. He finds people pretty entertaining most of the time as well.

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**Inner Wheel**

**Ramana Maharshi**

**Natal Chart**

Dec 30 1907 NS, Tue 1:00 am LMT 5:12:28

Madura, India
65°NS 0°07’ES

Glencassac
Tropical
Koch

**Three Node**

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**Outer Wheel**

**Awakening**

**Natal Chart**

Jul 17 1906 NS, Fri 12:00 pm - 5:21

Madura, India
65°NS 0°07’ES

Glencassac
Tropical
Koch

**Three Node**